

UN BRIEFING PAPERS

# *The World Conferences*

*Developing  
Priorities  
for the  
21st Century*





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for the 21st Century*



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## Other Major Conferences

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## Preface

The 1990s have witnessed a remarkable cycle of world conferences convened by the United Nations. Drawing on the best efforts of thousands of leaders and experts in many fields, the conferences — in New York, Rio de Janeiro, Vienna, Copenhagen, Cairo, Beijing, Istanbul and other venues — enabled Member States to address some of the major developmental, economic, social and environmental problems of our time. The United Nations, playing the harmonizing role envisaged in its founding Charter, served as an indispensable forum where diverse points of view were aired, where proposals were debated and where, most importantly, political consensus was achieved. As a result, the international community — Governments, non-governmental organizations, representatives of civil society — has been able to set a course for a new era in global affairs.

The conference cycle formed a continuum, a cohesive series of events devoted to interrelated issues such as environmental protection, the well-being of children, human rights and the rights of women, population, unemployment, crime, trade, food security, human settlements, natural disaster preparedness and social cohesion. Some of the linkages were cross-sectoral: for example, between unemployment and crime, or between population pressures and degradation of the environment. Poverty, of course, cuts across all of these questions.

Taken together, the results of the conferences offer a strong conceptual basis for development cooperation and for the United Nations' future role in this area. Development cooperation has been given a people-centred dimension, a sustainable dimension, a gender-sensitive dimension and a social dimension.

Each conference was an inspiring exercise in political consensus-building among United Nations Member States in which the vital input of political leaders at the highest levels, parliamentarians, women's groups, academics, businesspeople, trade unions and other members of civil society played an indispensable role. The involvement of these and other relevant actors enriched the conference proceedings and energized "stakeholders" in follow-up activities, an essential ingredient in maintaining pressure on Governments to implement their commitments and in sustaining post-conference momentum. Indeed, the negotiating process itself marked one of the conference cycle's signal achievements: the forging of new alliances in favour of development and poverty eradication.

At the substantive level, the conferences provided Governments and civil society with an opportunity to rethink development policies and development cooperation, areas in which, despite impressive gains over the last five decades, international efforts have faltered in recent years. At each conference, Member States demonstrated the political will to reach agreement on a series of landmark declarations and plans of action that established not only a basis for future work but also a gauge by which the implementation of the commitments can be monitored and reviewed. Governments agreed, among other things, that development must be approached in a comprehensive and integrated manner and that economic growth, supported by a revitalised and equitable system of multilateral cooperation, is a basic underlying principle and need.

The creative analysis and discussion that accompanied the conference process dovetailed very constructively with the ongoing deliberations in the General Assembly on the

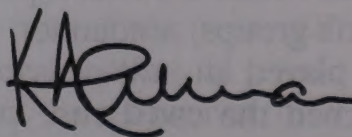


formulation of "An Agenda for Development". The conferences provided valuable input and impetus for the finalization of this agenda, which is expected to constitute an overall consensus on sustainable development policies.

The conference outcomes have also had important implications for the future of the United Nations system. Based on priorities identified by the conference cycle, the General Assembly is moving ahead with reforms designed to bring greater focus to its work, especially in the economic and social fields. At the same time, the Economic and Social Council is implementing changes that will enable it to better coordinate conference follow-up activities.

These steps are being supported by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), which brings together the executive heads of United Nations specialized agencies under my chairmanship. The ACC's follow-up is being pursued on a thematic basis, with inter-agency mechanisms established to support country-level action in three priority areas: the enabling environment for social and economic development; employment and sustainable livelihoods; and basic social services. Gender equality and the need to integrate a gender perspective in all areas of the Organization's work have been stressed. All of this activity represents a breakthrough in pooling the many resources of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, to ensure that the conferences have a lasting impact.

This edition of *UN Briefing Papers* provides an overview of the achievements, recommendations and actions flowing from the conference cycle. The decisions of the conferences provide a solid foundation for progress, clearly outlining the responsibilities of Governments, the United Nations and representatives of civil society. We continue to face a complex and ambitious agenda. I pledge to do my utmost to bring to the current post-conference follow-up phase the same sense of urgency that has brought us so far already. I am confident that together, we can take impressive strides towards our shared goals of peace and prosperity for all the peoples of the United Nations.



Kofi Annan  
Secretary-General  
of the United Nations



# Introduction

Since 1990, the international community has convened 12 major conferences which have committed Governments to address urgently some of the most pressing problems facing the world today. Taken together, these high profile meetings have achieved a global consensus on the priorities for a new development agenda for the 1990s and beyond. The subsequent chapters of this briefing paper, each dedicated to one of the major conferences, attempts to answer important questions. What problems did these conferences address? What did they accomplish? What actions did they propose? What is the follow-up? Where do we go from here? What is the UN role in the new development agenda proposed by these meetings?

This continuum of conferences represents a remarkable achievement for the United Nations system. Through the conference process the entire international community has come together to agree on shared values, on shared goals and on strategies to achieve them. This effort shows one of the United Nations system's greatest strengths: the ability to move from consciousness-raising to agenda-setting to agreement on action by Member States to follow-up on conference commitments and to effective assistance for the countries that need help in realizing their commitments.

## Much in Common

Taken individually, each conference marked the culmination of many months of consultations among Member States, UN experts and non-governmental representatives, who reviewed vast amounts of information and shared a broad spectrum of experiences in child welfare, environmental protection, human rights, the advancement of women, productive employment, reproductive health and urban development, and the links of these to peace, development and human security. Each conference forged agreements on specific issues in a new spirit of global cooperation and purpose. Every meeting has demonstrated the universality of concern regarding the issues in question.

All were convened with the strong support of the UN General Assembly, currently the voice of 185 Member States, and the recognition that the end of the cold war presented the opportunity — indeed, the necessity — to revitalize international cooperation on development issues. All addressed problems of a global magnitude which Member States recognized had grown beyond their individual capacities to solve and which needed a concerted international effort. All of them reflect the work of Member States and a growing number of other actors in the field of international development, particularly non-governmental organizations (NGOs). All of them actively sought out media attention, capturing the imaginations of millions of people around the world and greatly enhancing awareness and understanding of the issues in the public at large.

<b>World Conferences</b>	
World Summit for Children	1990
United Nations Conference on Environment and Development	1992
World Conference on Human Rights	1993
International Conference on Population and Development	1994
World Summit for Social Development	1995
Fourth World Conference on Women	1995
Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)	1996
World Food Summit	1996
<b>Other Major Conferences</b>	
United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	1994
International Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction	1994
Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders	1995
Ninth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD IX)	1996



All of the conferences focused on issues of global well-being and sought to identify ways to link the problems people face at the community level with policies and actions at the international level. In this effort, they built on common ground created over the decades by previous world conferences and conventions. All of them adopted action plans that require major commitments of financial resources and political will. Together, they have established the principles to guide development policy into the twenty-first century, making people the focus and measure of development efforts. All of them demanded an integrated, interrelated and coherent implementation of their outcomes based on a common framework. All of them recognized the importance of the United Nations system as a key player in these efforts.

The conferences were also, inevitably, subject to criticism from many sectors. Sceptics argued that efforts to influence the course of economic and social development on a global scale were unrealistic. The media sometimes grew impatient with “grand schemes” that could not be easily reduced to sound bites for the evening news. There were reporters who had difficulty following the often complex procedures required at a UN conference to obtain the consensus of 185 nations. NGOs, impatient with slow-moving government policy changes, regularly spurred the process, sometimes decrying the conferences as failures, victims of too much compromise and too little commitment to real change. Some in the private sector saw the threat of regulation arising from the conferences as possibly outweighing the clear benefits that sound development policies have for world trade, economic growth and the environment. Others, doubting their effectiveness, felt the conferences were too expensive and too repetitive (*see Do world conferences cost too much?*, page 7). Some Governments voiced concern that the overarching emphasis on human rights, democratization, the advancement of women and environmental protection were thinly disguised efforts to impose a new world order favouring a few powerful nations. Some countries were reluctant to set specific targets or increase available funding or take any steps that might impinge on national sovereignty. Still, consensus was forged despite the multiplicity of concerns and perspectives.

### **The Challenges Ahead**

Despite the doubts, critics and advocates alike acknowledge that the world is facing problems that cannot be resolved with action only at the national level. They are problems that respect no borders, such as organized crime, trafficking in children and drugs, the AIDS pandemic, desertification, ozone depletion. They are problems that share the common denominator of poverty: malnutrition, illiteracy, inadequate housing, unemployment. With increasing frequency, these problems escalate into crisis and disaster. They are problems that tear at the fabric of our societies, in developing and industrialized countries alike: crime, racism, ethnic strife, violence against women, political and social exclusion and massive violations of human rights. Some are problems of affluence: pollution of our rivers, over-fishing of the oceans, destruction of our biodiversity, reckless consumption of valuable, sometimes irreplaceable resources. They are all urgent problems whose solutions require a new level of cooperation among nations and the participation of civil society. Reflecting the sense of both urgency and determination, these conferences have recommended actions that can have an impact on a global scale, affecting the long-term well-being of all of us.

Effecting change on a global scale — which is the purview of the United Nations — is slow and incremental. Few expect big changes overnight. Nevertheless, positive changes over the long term are demanded, expected and certainly required if the chal-



lenges are to be effectively met. There is already a great deal that these conferences can claim to their credit. The very fact that so many diverse nations have come together repeatedly to negotiate and work out compromises on these difficult issues is by itself a true test of the relevance and unique abilities of the United Nations. But in the long run, the significance of the conferences lies in their follow-up, the process of changes that they put into motion, especially at the national level. With the 1990 World Summit for Children and the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development occurring early in the decade, we already have the opportunity to see what progress has been made on those issues. The work of implementing the accords, commitments and internationally agreed targets reached at these conferences is being given the attention of all nations and international organizations in mid-decade reviews towards the year 2000.

The world conferences reaffirmed many long-standing principles and helped articulate new ones that reflect the experience — both the successes and failures — of the past 50 years of work in the principal areas of the UN mandate. Both the conferences and the parallel work on “An Agenda for Development”, the evolving proposal for a new approach to development, currently being revised by the General Assembly, have focused attention on problems of development and reflect the new thinking that has emerged over the past decade in the face of ever-changing circumstances. The Agenda’s call for a “common framework” for the various initiatives for development and the emphasis placed on integrated follow-up have been echoed in the conferences. The conferences also linked the themes and action plans to each other in a deliberate way. Although there is no universal prescription for successful development, the conferences reflect the growing convergence of views that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. There is also concern that the “top-down” approach to development be countered by genuine input from the community level to the policy-making process. These are concepts that mark major shifts in thinking, not simply among some development specialists or academics, but by government leaders and policy makers who are setting policy at the highest levels. These can be expected to have a far-reaching impact at all levels of society.

There is increasing acceptance of a common concept of development, which is centred on human beings, their needs, rights and aspirations, fostered by sustainable global economic growth and supported by a revitalized and equitable system of multilateral cooperation. These major international conferences have played a key role in building this consensus and in identifying the actions needed to fulfill common goals (*see New approaches to development, page 4*).

### **UN Role**

In many respects, the recent conference process reflects the rethinking of the role of the United Nations in international affairs. The continuum of conferences has underscored the need for changes in the UN’s work and structure, and heavy emphasis has been placed on revitalizing existing bodies, including the General Assembly, which is seen to require a more focused agenda to facilitate its executive decision-making for the Organization. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the regional commissions and the departments within the UN Secretariat dealing with economic and social affairs are all undertaking reforms to advance their capacity to respond to the demands outlined by the Conference.

The plans of action all acknowledge that the United Nations, by virtue of its global reach, its universal membership, its impartiality and the unique and comprehensive mandate reflected in its Charter, remains the centrepiece of the international community.



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## New approaches to development

A variety of guidelines and principles reflecting the new thinking about development are highlighted in the action plans of the world conferences. The action plans call for their integration into policy and programme formulation at both the national and international levels. These constitute the bases for evaluation of the Conference accomplishments over time.

- Development should be centred on human beings. Because an individual's well-being is multifaceted, a multidimensional approach to development is essential. Therefore, any formulation of strategies, policies, and national, regional and international actions has to be based on an integrated and comprehensive approach.
  - Central goals of development include the eradication of poverty, the fulfilment of the basic needs of all people and the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the right to development among them. Development requires that governments apply active social and environmental policies, and the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on the basis of democratic and widely participatory institutions. Goals of economic growth and social progress in larger freedom must therefore be pursued simultaneously and in an integrated manner.
  - Investments in health, education and training are critical to the development of human resources. Social development is best pursued if governments actively promote empowerment and participation in a democratic and pluralistic system respectful of all human rights. Processes to promote increased and equal economic opportunities, to avoid exclusion and overcome socially divisive disparities while respecting diversity are also a necessary part of an enabling environment for social development.
  - The improvement of the status of women, including their empowerment, is central to all efforts to achieve sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions.
  - Diversion of resources away from social priorities should be avoided and, where it has occurred, be corrected. The formulation of structural adjustment policies and programmes should take these considerations into account.
  - An open and equitable framework for trade, investment and technology transfer, as well as enhanced cooperation in the management of a globalized world economy and in the formulation and implementation of macroeconomic policies, are critical for the promotion of sustained economic growth. While the private sector is the primary motor for economic development, the importance of an active role for governments in the formulation of social and environmental policies should not be underestimated.
  - An acceleration of the rate of economic growth is essential for expanding the resource base for development and hence for economic, technical and social transformation. Economic growth generates the required financial, physical, human and technological resources and creates a basis for sustained global economic growth and sustainable development as well as for international economic cooperation. It is also essential to the eradication of poverty.
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Because of this central role, the international community has pledged repeatedly to ensure that the United Nations system is equipped to lead in development efforts, to serve as a forum for the expression of global goals, to be an advocate for core values such as human rights and environmental soundness, to respond to humanitarian needs when they arise — and to prevent their emergence — as well as to maintain peace and international security. Enhancing the UN role requires an ongoing focus on development issues as a priority concern, while ensuring its sound financial basis and improving its efficiency and effectiveness.

The UN and its Member States also recognize the clear need for an integrated, inter-related and coherent follow-up to the conferences. The UN is expected to compile these commitments, recommendations and agreements, estimate their costs, order and sequence their implementation, and propose schedules for putting them into effect. As there has been a reluctance to set up new international machinery, each conference has designated existing mechanisms to help implement its plan of action. Governments have clear reporting channels through the various **UN Commissions** — on Human Rights, the Status of Women, Social Development and Population and Development. These and other mechanisms are briefly reviewed in each of the 12 chapters that follow. Conferences have prompted the creation of new mechanisms. The Earth Summit and the Conference on Human Rights called for the creation of the Commission on Sustainable Development and a High Commissioner on Human Rights, respectively.

Within the UN system, **ECOSOC** — the UN body that oversees the Organization's development work — has the primary responsibility for the coordinated and integrated follow-up to and implementation of major international conferences. As "An Agenda for Development" and the conferences have made clear, a revitalized ECOSOC is expected to oversee the implementation of the action plans effectively and efficiently. To this end, ECOSOC has taken important decisions to draw together in a coherent way the outcomes of the major conferences and summits, so as to ensure that they guide the activities of the UN system and rationalize the system's delivery of coordinated assistance to developing countries.

The **Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC)**, headed by the Secretary-General and comprised of the heads of the autonomous UN agencies and programmes, including the Bretton Woods institutions — the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank — has been designated by ECOSOC to organize the system around the priorities and goals of the conferences and provide guidance to UN development operations at the national level. Two ACC initiatives reflect the importance attached to system-wide coordination: the creation of inter-agency task forces and the United Nations System-Wide Special Initiative on Africa, designed to support that region's development needs. In the follow-up to the conferences, UN policy-making bodies have sought to strike a balance between maintaining the thematic integrity and momentum of each individual conference and recognizing the need for integrated action at the country level. Given the overlapping and mutually reinforcing nature of the various declarations and programmes of action, the follow-up to each conference cannot be pursued in isolation; integrated and coherent implementation is essential both to avoid duplication and confusion and to promote effective action.

### **Inter-agency Task Forces**

The ACC has set up three inter-agency task forces (IATFs) and an inter-agency committee. They are: the ACC Inter-Agency Task Forces on Basic Social Services for All; on an Enabling Environment for Economic and Social Development; and on



Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods; and the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality. The primary objective of the IATFs is to assure that, from the headquarters level, support is provided to UN Resident Coordinators, usually the Director of the United Nations Development Programme in the field, and the UN team in each country so that they may effectively assist Governments and national institutions in their pursuit of conference goals and commitments. The IATFs also help the ACC define the broad themes on which the global coordination machinery should focus. This IATF initiative represents a strong shift to a new type of coordination — not “general coordination” for exchanging information about what each part of the system has done or is planning to do, but “goal-oriented collaboration” for maximizing the comparative advantages of the respective agencies and organizations of the UN system to act in concert at the country level in the implementation of concrete action plans.

**Basic Social Services for All.** A major common theme of recent conferences is the need for basic social services for all. This objective is central to any overall anti-poverty initiative and this IATF is addressing the full range of issues associated with providing concerted system-wide support for basic social services (including primary health care, basic education, reproductive health, family planning, safe drinking water and sanitation, shelter and social services in emergency and post-crisis situations) and investment in people. The task force has already taken steps in this direction, for example, by asking the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to lead working groups on basic education, children and health, respectively. This task force is responsible for the guidelines for the work of UN offices in the field — the UN Resident Coordinator system — and for establishing a set of social indicators which will measure the implementation of recommendations from the world conferences.

**Enabling Environment for Economic and Social Development.** An important breakthrough at recent conferences has been the attention given to the “enabling environment” for people-centred sustainable development. This is an area particularly suited to a concerted inter-agency effort, including not only issues of macro-policy frameworks, but also access to technology and finance. Two subgroups have been formed: Capacity Building for Governance, chaired by UNDP; and Macroeconomic and Social Framework, chaired by the World Bank. The subgroups are working to identify “best practices” for coordinated service delivery at the country level, particularly those cases where the successful development of an enabling environment has been enhanced by inter-agency cooperation. This task force, which is under the overall chairmanship of the World Bank, also deals with the issue of food security, with the participation of the UN's three Rome-based agricultural agencies — the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

**Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods for All.** The International Labour Organization (ILO) chairs this task force, which deals with the goals of employment and sustainable livelihoods for all. It is preparing a report for use by the Resident Coordinator system, summarizing lessons learned from experience at the country level and across countries that contributed to the promotion of employment and sustainable livelihoods. The report will also address the impact of globalization and technological change and clarify the relationship between employment and sustainable livelihoods. A working group focusing on sustainable livelihoods and productive assets is chaired by UNDP.

**Empowerment and the Advancement of Women.** All of the conferences have addressed the central issues of the advancement of women, who constitute 70 per cent



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## Do world conferences cost too much?

**T**o some critics, the recent series of world conferences appeared to be extravagant talk-fests that cost too much and accomplished little. The reality, of course, is that most of the world's leaders and policy makers view these events as valuable investments of time and consultation that are indispensable in shaping our global future. For its part, the United Nations has always devoted considerable resources as the facilitator of these conferences, large and small. It provides the base or "secretariat" that organizes the documentation and services the proceedings, including the numerous preparatory meetings, with its staff of substantive experts, translators, interpreters, printers, secretaries, press and information officers, security personnel, etc.

The result is a well-coordinated team of experienced individuals who can organize and service a conference for several thousand participants, often under the most difficult circumstances. The cost to the United Nations of the recent world conferences has been quite modest, ranging between \$1.8 million and \$3.4 million per conference. An exception was the Earth Summit, whose extraordinarily complex agenda required specialized staffing and more extensive preparations, costing the UN some \$10 million. The costs of the conference facilities themselves, as well as local staff, travel and hotels for UN staff, are covered by the host Government, when the conference is not held at a UN facility. As they would for the Olympic Games, Governments take pride in being selected to host a world conference, whose final document usually bears the name of the city where it is held.

The UN has gone to great lengths to find ways to reduce the cost of conferences. Some steps have been truly innovative. When the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders met in Cairo in 1995, the documents that the delegates needed each day were produced rapidly and professionally in the six languages that the delegates were using. Few delegates realized that behind the smooth production of the documents was a pioneering cost-saving measure. For while the delegates met in Cairo, translators on duty 24 hours a day in Vienna translated all of the official documents for the conference. The documents were transmitted by Internet, with back-up by phone lines and satellite transmission.

This change saved the United Nations \$44,000 because staff were fully employed in Vienna, and saved \$178,000 for the host Government of Egypt, principally in travel, per diem and related costs that it would have otherwise had to pay. Equally important, the use of remote

translation made the best use of staff. Had a full team gone to Cairo, they could have been under-employed at the beginning of the conference and still not have been able to cope with the heavier workload during the closing days of the conference. UN offices in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi have now made remote translation standard practice for conferences and meetings off-site. The arrangement was also used for the Women's Conference in China, UNCTAD IX in South Africa and Habitat II in Turkey, with similar results: high-quality translation services with savings both for the United Nations and for the countries hosting the conferences. Now, the Secretariat is researching the use of technology to do remote interpretation and teleconferencing.





of the world's poor. The Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality was established to ensure that these concerns are addressed in the system-wide follow-up questions on the improvement of the status of women within the UN system. It is focusing on the Cairo, Copenhagen and Beijing conferences in an integrated manner and covering specific areas related to women's empowerment and advancement which are not dealt with by the other IATFs. The Inter-Agency Committee is headed by the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Gender Issues.

All of the IATFs have adopted work programmes with limited and specific goals, and are expected to complete their initial tasks by early 1997. However, the success the IATFs have experienced in bringing together the Organization's many specialized agencies and programmes at this very task-oriented level has led many to expect that they will continue to meet after this initial phase.

Working groups of senior UN officials have been formed to focus on a number of related issues: developing a common United Nations public information strategy; considering how the UN programmes, funds and organizations can strengthen cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions; examining and defining an approach to enhancing the Organization's relationship with civic organizations and NGOs; and exploring how to better utilize the UN's extensive research, analytical and statistical capabilities.

## **Partnerships**

The United Nations, of course, is not alone in the profound transformation that is required to meet the expectations raised by the world conferences. The Organization is taking very seriously the question whether existing UN institutions can and should be revitalized and reshaped to enable them to promote and support new approaches to economic and social development. But it is a debate that is mirrored within other intergovernmental bodies and national Governments and among NGOs around the world. (The bibliography beginning on page 103 reflects the range of debate and discussion within the UN system and, to some extent, that of other intergovernmental bodies.) The conferences have made clear, however, that all of these entities, including Governments, must reorganize themselves and work together if significant progress is to be made in implementing the action plans.

In this spirit, all of the Conferences emphasized the need to draw on the support of other sectors of society — in particular the non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia and the media — to implement effectively their action plans. The call for genuine partnerships in development has been reiterated and the conference process accelerated efforts to include NGOs in the negotiating process and follow-up. While the agendas of Governments and NGOs differ in fundamental ways — NGOs themselves are also very diverse — NGO input into the plans of action increased with each successive meeting. Both the UN system and Governments see NGO participation and the access they provide to the targeted populations as essential to the broad-based changes that are required for poverty eradication and the provision of basic social services. Similarly, the conferences, particularly the Earth Summit and Habitat II, have taken important steps in exploring the positive roles that the diverse private sector can play in the implementation of action plans.

The 12 chapters that follow provide an overview of the commitments made and the follow-up undertaken by the UN and Governments in particular at each of the major world conferences. The follow-up is an immensely complex and multi-layered process and is taking place at the same time that the Organization is itself undergoing profound



changes. Both the UN system chart (*see Annex III on page 102*) and the bibliography (*see page 103*) will further orient the reader to the institutional mechanisms in place and the extensive documentation that has been generated to inform and guide the work of the UN system. It is hoped that this schematic approach will assist in identifying the key players and the institutional framework that has been set up — and in many cases is still being put in place — to see that these promises are kept.







## Chapter 1

### World Summit for Children





<i>Conference:</i>	<b>World Summit for Children (WSC) United Nations, New York, 29-30 September 1990</b>
<i>Informal name:</i>	<b>The Children's Summit</b>
<i>Number of Governments participating:</i>	<b>159, including 71 heads of State or Government</b>
<i>Conference Co-chairmen:</i>	<b>Brian Mulroney, Canada, and Mussa Traoré, Mali</b>
<i>Organizers:</i>	<b>The six initiating countries (Canada, Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan, Sweden) with the support of UNICEF and other UN agencies under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General</b>
<i>Principal themes:</i>	<b>Goals for the year 2000 for children's health, nutrition, education, and access to safe water and sanitation</b>
<i>NGO presence:</i>	<b>45 non-governmental organizations participated in the Summit</b>
<i>Resulting document:</i>	<b>World Declaration and Plan of Action on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children</b>
<i>Follow-up mechanisms:</i>	<b>Mid-decade review, with Secretary-General's progress report presented at the 1996 General Assembly session on the anniversary of the Children's Summit; UN Inter-Agency Task Force (see Annex 1, page 99); the Joint Committee on Health Policy and the Joint Committee on Education; National Programmes of Action for Children within each national Government; UNICEF is the lead UN agency</b>



# The Children's Summit

**T**HE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN (WSC), HELD AT UNITED NATIONS Headquarters, was an unprecedented gathering of world leaders to promote the well-being of children. The high point of the occasion, held under the auspices of the UN in New York, was the joint signing of a **World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children** and a **Plan of Action** comprising a detailed set of child-related human development goals for the year 2000. These included targeted reductions in infant and maternal mortality, child malnutrition and illiteracy, as well as targeted increases in access to basic services for health and family planning, education, water and sanitation. Of the 159 Governments represented at the Summit, 73 signed the joint Declaration and Plan of Action on behalf of the world's children. The total of signatories had risen to 167 countries as of October 1996.

The goals established at the 1990 World Summit for Children have had an extraordinary mobilizing power, generating a high level of commitment on behalf of children around the world, and creating new partnerships between Governments, NGOs, donors, the media, civil society and international organizations in pursuit of a common purpose.

The Children's Summit also served as an important organizational model for global mobilization, later adapted by the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro (1992) and the Social Summit in Copenhagen (1995). Its involvement of world leaders and its establishment of time-bound, measurable goals were pioneering endeavours, helping to mobilize resources and commitment and shape new initiatives with clear aims and directions.

## Background

Although the decade of the 1980s is often referred to as the "lost decade for development" because of serious economic and social setbacks, significant advances were made in the global status of children. These were due in large measure to collaboration between Governments, NGOs and UN organizations, especially UNICEF and WHO, in focused areas of child survival and health. The "child survival and development revolution", launched by UNICEF, promoted low-cost, effective technologies such as oral rehydration therapy (ORT) and immunization against childhood diseases to improve the health of children, even as many developing countries faced economic crisis. Mobilization at national and local levels was crucial to making these technologies widely available. UNICEF and WHO showed that global mobilization for concrete goals was possible by their campaign that raised childhood immunization levels from roughly 20 per cent in 1980 in developing countries to 80 per cent by 1990. The Children's Summit was inspired in part by recognition that these successes formed a solid basis for broader mobilization on behalf of children.

Further progress was made in 1989, when the UN General Assembly adopted the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**, building on the 1959 Declaration on the Rights of the Child. An international treaty carrying the force of law, the Convention entered



into force in 1990. With the child survival and development revolution, it touched a highly responsive chord among Governments and the NGO community, becoming the world's most rapidly and widely ratified human rights instrument.

The Convention, carrying the weight of international law, provides Governments and international agencies with a framework for developing policies benefiting children and a platform for advocacy reinforcing the Summit's Plan of Action. By October 1996, 187 Governments had ratified the Convention, covering 96 per cent of the world's children. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) regularly reviews Government and NGO reports on progress for children and discusses with Governments how they can best fulfil their obligations under the Convention.

### **The National Programmes of Action**

As with all of the major conferences of this decade, national Governments are expected to assume primary responsibility for the implementation of the resulting plans of action. In the case of the Children's Summit, countries agreed to develop strategies through national programmes of action (NPAs) that would adapt the global goals to national realities. To date, 155 countries have prepared or finalized NPAs.

To mobilize the resources needed to achieve the goals for children, the Summit Plan of Action urged developing and donor countries to accord higher priority to children's well-being in their budget considerations. This impetus led to the "20/20 initiative", a funding strategy which aims to provide resources to ensure access for all to basic social services, to combat the worst effects of poverty. The initiative proposes that developing countries direct at least 20 per cent of their domestic budgets to basic social services, while donor countries earmark 20 per cent of their development assistance for the same purpose. The initiative has gathered international support. In 1995 at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, UNDP, UNESCO, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF and WHO all backed it as a means of generating sufficient additional resources (US \$30 billion-\$40 billion annually) to ensure that by the end of the century everyone would have access to basic social services. A number of national Governments have also endorsed these principles and committed themselves to move in the 20/20 direction.

### **Mid-Decade Review**

On 30 September 1996, the sixth anniversary of the World Summit for Children, the General Assembly received a comprehensive review of progress at mid-decade towards the goals for the year 2000. The mid-decade review provided an opportunity for national Governments to adjust global goals to national realities, to formulate and implement sustainable strategies and to attract adequate national and external resources to implement national plans.

At the midway point in the time frame set out by the Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children, the results of commitments to give every child a better future are more and more visible, despite civil conflicts and man-made and natural disasters in many countries. By the middle of 1996, about 90 developing countries, home to some 90 per cent of children of the developing world, were making progress toward goals for the year 2000.

The Secretary-General's report points to impressive progress towards a number of the child-survival goals, including those for immunization coverage, control of polio, guinea

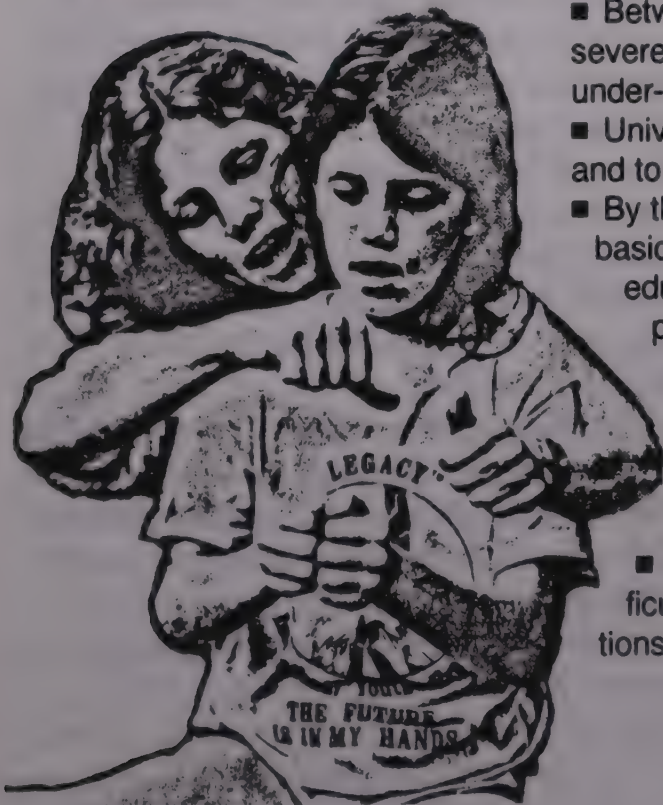


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## Major goals for children by the year 2000

**T**he World Summit for Children endorsed the following seven goals and 20 other supporting goals for implementation by all countries, although it was emphasized that they should be adapted to the specific situation of each country in terms of phasing, standards, priorities and availability of resources.

- Between 1990 and 2000, reduction of the infant and under-five child mortality rate by one third, or to 50 and 70 per 1,000 live births, respectively, whichever is less.
- Between 1990 and 2000, reduction of the maternal mortality rate by half.
- Between 1990 and 2000, reduction of severe and moderate malnutrition among under-five children by half.
- Universal access to safe drinking water and to sanitary means of excreta disposal.
- By the year 2000, universal access to basic education and completion of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary-school-age children.
- Reduction of the adult illiteracy rate (the appropriate age group to be determined in each country) to at least half its 1990 level, with emphasis on female literacy.
- Protection of children in especially difficult circumstances, particularly in situations of armed conflict.





worm and iodine deficiency disorders, access to safe drinking water, and promotion of breast-feeding.

- *Already, 89 countries have reached the end-decade target of over 90 per cent immunization coverage, and achievement of the goal of eradication of polio by 2000 is in sight.*
- *There has been a dramatic improvement in management of diarrhoea at home over the past five years with the widespread use of low-cost oral rehydration therapy, saving the lives of about 1 million children annually.*
- *In iodine deficiency control, almost all countries with an iodine deficiency-related health problem are now iodizing salt, and around 1.5 billion more people were consuming iodized salt in 1995 than in 1990. As a result, some 12 million infants are protected from mental retardation each year.*
- *The population without access to safe drinking water has fallen by about one third since 1990.*
- *There was major progress in meeting the mid-decade goal for promotion of breast-feeding by implementing "baby-friendly" regimes in maternity facilities.*

The mid-term review also revealed serious problems. While under-five mortality has been reduced in all regions, the pace of progress has been too slow to meet the end-decade goal, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, which together account for three fourths of all under-five deaths. There has also been limited progress towards achieving nutrition, maternal mortality, sanitation and girls' education goals. However, the slow starts in these areas do not detract from the fact that the overall message of the mid-decade review is encouraging. Where political commitment is present, resources have been allocated; where underlying causes have been rigorously analysed, where communities have been mobilized, and where sound policies and programmes have been developed, notable progress has been made.

One of the important international achievements associated with WSC follow-up has been the work generated in connection with measurement. Setting measurable goals demanded a parallel effort to put in place effective systems of data collection and monitoring. Both national Governments and the international community are now in a far better position to establish baseline data and monitor progress for children.

The mid-decade review has generated ideas for new strategies in many countries. In some cases, these may require adjustments to existing National Programmes of Action, or the reformulation of goals and strategies in the light of a heightened appreciation of local realities. In others, special attention will need to be given to capacity-building so as to ensure the sustainability of achievements. In the second half of the decade, there will be increasing emphasis on the prioritization of goals at national, sub-national and community levels and on adaptations and refinements to suit local situations that reflect, for instance, the presence of serious epidemic diseases like HIV/AIDS, malaria or tuberculosis.

### **UN Follow-up**

The Summit's Plan of Action requested the cooperation of UN organizations in assisting countries' efforts to achieve the goals for children. UNICEF, the only UN organization exclusively mandated to protect children, has been deeply involved in the follow-up process, helping countries with their NPAs and monitoring progress through the mid-term reviews. It has worked closely with WHO, UNESCO and other international and



national partners to develop indicators to monitor children's progress. Since 1992, the annual UNICEF publication *The Progress of Nations* has recorded the advances and setbacks for children and women in all regions of the world.

UNICEF has also actively pursued universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with the support of many NGOs. In the process, UNICEF has become strongly identified with the cause of child rights in ways that have important implications for its future work in both industrialized and developing countries. It works with Governments to protect the entire spectrum of children's rights, including access to health care and basic education, as well as to protect abandoned children, children caught up in the violence of war, street children, children subject to special forms of abuse and discrimination and child victims of hazardous labour and sexual exploitation. To develop strategies to combat this last, crushing form of exploitation, UNICEF was a co-sponsor of the first-ever World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, in Stockholm in August 1996.

Progress has been made, yet challenges remain, among them eliminating the significant disparities in the status of children between regions and countries, as well as within countries, which the mid-decade review identified. Renewed efforts must be made to overcome these disparities and ensure that all children benefit from the commitments made by world leaders at the World Summit for Children.

But what has also emerged in the years after the Summit is the close link between progress made for children and gains in human development. The Governments and numerous partners working to achieve the goals on behalf of the world's children have, in the process, helped catalyse efforts towards many other social and economic goals to which the international community has committed itself during the 1990s. These include the slowing of population growth, the preservation and judicious management of the environment, the pursuit of human rights and the reduction of poverty.

The 1990s and the series of international conferences the decade ushered in began with a powerful act of mobilization behind the children's cause. Through the World Summit for Children and the political commitments and social energies it generated, a climate has been fostered in which social development goals could be set and the resources needed to meet them could be allocated as legitimate and important investments in human development.

Sustaining progress for children, then, is an essential element in sustaining global momentum towards a better and more just world for all.







## **Chapter 2**

### **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development**





<i>Conference:</i>	<b>United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992</b>
<i>Informal name:</i>	<b>The Earth Summit</b>
<i>Host Government:</i>	<b>Brazil</b>
<i>Number of Governments participating:</i>	<b>172, 108 at level of heads of State or Government</b>
<i>Conference Secretary-General:</i>	<b>Mr. Maurice Strong (Canada)</b>
<i>Organizers:</i>	<b>UNCED secretariat</b>
<i>Principal themes:</i>	<b>Environment and sustainable development</b>
<i>NGO presence:</i>	<b>Some 2,400 representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs); 17,000 people attended the parallel NGO Forum</b>
<i>Resulting documents:</i>	<b>Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Statement of Forest Principles, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity</b>
<i>Follow-up mechanisms:</i>	<b>Commission on Sustainable Development; Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development; High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development</b>
<i>Previous conference:</i>	<b>UN Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm (1972)</b>



# The Earth Summit

**T**HE EARTH SUMMIT IN RIO DE JANEIRO WAS UNPRECEDENTED FOR A UN conference, in terms of both its size and the scope of its concerns. Twenty years after the first global environment conference, the UN sought to help Governments rethink economic development and find ways to halt the destruction of irreplaceable natural resources and pollution of the planet. Hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life were drawn into the Rio process. They persuaded their leaders to go to Rio and join other nations in making the difficult decisions needed to ensure a healthy planet for generations to come.

The Summit's message — that nothing less than a transformation of our attitudes and behaviour would bring about the necessary changes — was transmitted by almost 10,000 on-site journalists and heard by millions around the world. The message reflected the complexity of the problems facing us: that poverty as well as excessive consumption by affluent populations place damaging stress on the environment. Governments recognized the need to redirect international and national plans and policies to ensure that all economic decisions fully took into account any environmental impact. And the message has produced results, making eco-efficiency a guiding principle for business and governments alike.

- *Patterns of production — particularly the production of toxic components, such as lead in gasoline, or poisonous waste — are being scrutinized in a systematic manner by the UN and Governments alike;*
- *Alternative sources of energy are being sought to replace the use of fossil fuels which are linked to global climate change;*
- *New reliance on public transportation systems is being emphasized in order to reduce vehicle emissions, congestion in cities and the health problems caused by polluted air and smog;*
- *There is much greater awareness of and concern over the growing scarcity of water.*

The two-week Earth Summit was the climax of a process, begun in December 1989, of planning, education and negotiations among all Member States of the United Nations, leading to the adoption of **Agenda 21**, a wide-ranging blueprint for action to achieve sustainable development worldwide. At its close, Maurice Strong, the Conference Secretary-General, called the Summit a “historic moment for humanity”. Although Agenda 21 had been weakened by compromise and negotiation, he said, it was still the most comprehensive and, if implemented, effective programme of action ever sanctioned by the international community. Today, efforts to ensure its proper implementation continue, and they will be reviewed by the UN General Assembly at a special session to be held in June 1997.

The Earth Summit influenced all subsequent UN conferences, which have examined the relationship between human rights, population, social development, women and human settlements — and the need for environmentally sustainable development. The World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in 1993, for example, underscored the right of people to a healthy environment and the right to development, controversial demands that had met with resistance from some Member States until Rio.



## **Background**

The relationship between economic development and environmental degradation was first placed on the international agenda in 1972, at the **UN Conference on the Human Environment**, held in Stockholm. After the Conference, Governments set up the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which today continues to act as a global catalyst for action to protect the environment. Little, however, was done in the succeeding years to integrate environmental concerns into national economic planning and decision-making. Overall, the environment continued to deteriorate, and such problems as ozone depletion, global warming and water pollution grew more serious, while the destruction of natural resources accelerated at an alarming rate.

By 1983, when the UN set up the **World Commission on Environment and Development**, environmental degradation, which had been seen as a side effect of industrial wealth with only a limited impact, was understood to be a matter of survival for developing nations. Led by Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway, the Commission put forward the concept of sustainable development as an alternative approach to one simply based on economic growth — one “which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

After considering the 1987 Brundtland report, the UN General Assembly called for the **UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)**. The primary goals of the Summit were to come to an understanding of “development” that would support socio-economic development and prevent the continued deterioration of the environment, and to lay a foundation for a global partnership between the developing and the more industrialized countries, based on mutual needs and common interests, that would ensure a healthy future for the planet.

## **The Earth Summit Agreements**

In Rio, Governments — 108 represented by heads of State or Government — adopted three major agreements aimed at changing the traditional approach to development:

- **Agenda 21** — *a comprehensive programme of action for global action in all areas of sustainable development;*
- **The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development** — *a series of principles defining the rights and responsibilities of States;*
- **The Statement of Forest Principles** — *a set of principles to underlie the sustainable management of forests worldwide.*

In addition, two legally binding Conventions — the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** and the **Convention on Biological Diversity** — aimed to prevent global climate change and the eradication of the diversity of biological species. Both were opened for signature at the Summit, giving high profile to these efforts.

**Agenda 21** — Agenda 21 addresses today’s pressing problems and aims to prepare the world for the challenges of the next century. It contains detailed proposals for action in social and economic areas (such as combating poverty, changing patterns of production and consumption and addressing demographic dynamics), and for conserving and managing the natural resources that are the basis for life — protecting the atmosphere, oceans and biodiversity; preventing deforestation; and promoting sustainable agriculture, for example.

Governments agreed that the integration of environment and development concerns will lead to the fulfilment of basic needs, improved standards for all, better protected and



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## Agreement on High Seas Fishing

**A**t the Earth Summit, Governments expressed concern at overfishing on the high seas and the danger of depletion of some species. They called on the UN to hold talks to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of fish, such as cod off the east coast of Canada and pollack in the Bering Sea, which straddle the boundaries of nations' 200-mile off-shore zones, and others such as tuna and swordfish, which migrate across wide areas of the ocean.

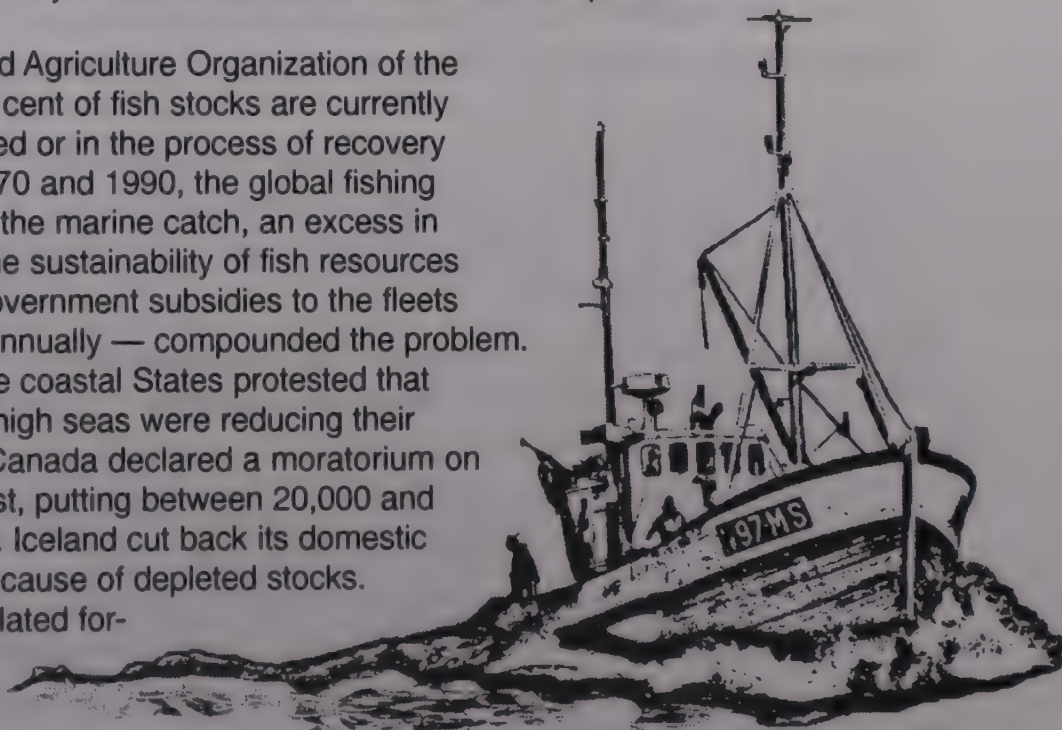
Under the new legally binding agreement, which was opened for signature on 4 December 1995, Governments are obliged to cooperate to regulate fishing in order to prevent the depletion of species and to preserve stocks for the future. Implementation of the agreement will depend on whether regional fishing organizations, which in some cases have yet to be established, will be able to operate effectively.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 70 per cent of fish stocks are currently either fully exploited, overfished or in the process of recovery from overfishing. Between 1970 and 1990, the global fishing fleet grew at twice the rate of the marine catch, an excess in capacity which undermined the sustainability of fish resources and of the fishing industry. Government subsidies to the fleets — totalling some \$54 billion annually — compounded the problem.

During negotiations, some coastal States protested that higher catches of fish on the high seas were reducing their catches in territorial waters. Canada declared a moratorium on cod fishing off its Atlantic coast, putting between 20,000 and 30,000 fishermen out of work. Iceland cut back its domestic fishing fleet by 50 per cent because of depleted stocks.

At the same time, unregulated foreign fleets continued to fish just off these countries' boundaries. Reports of skirmishes between national fishing fleets in international waters became increasingly frequent. On several occasions Governments called out navy vessels to protect their fishing fleets. The new Agreement contains provisions for the mandatory and peaceful settlement of such disputes.

The new accord is officially called the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. The 1982 Convention, which became law on 16 November 1994, provided for the conservation of certain migratory species such as salmon and eel, but did not cover most species.





better managed ecosystems and a safer and a more prosperous future. "No nation can achieve this on its own. Together we can — in a global partnership for sustainable development", states the preamble.

The programme of action also recommends ways to strengthen the part played by major groups — women, trade unions, farmers, children and young people, indigenous peoples, the scientific community, local authorities, business, industry and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) — in achieving sustainable development.

**Rio Declaration** — The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development supports Agenda 21 by defining the rights and responsibilities of States regarding these issues. Among its principles:

- *That human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature;*
- *That scientific uncertainty should not delay measures to prevent environmental degradation where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage;*
- *That States have a sovereign right to exploit their own resources but not to cause damage to the environment of other States;*
- *That eradicating poverty and reducing disparities in worldwide standards of living are "indispensable" for sustainable development;*
- *That the full participation of women is essential for achieving sustainable development; and*
- *That the developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command.*

**Statement of Forest Principles** — The non-legally binding statement of principles for the sustainable management of forests was the first global consensus reached on forests. Among its provisions:

- *That all countries, notably developed countries, should make an effort to "green the world" through reforestation and forest conservation;*
- *That States have a right to develop forests according to their socio-economic needs, in keeping with national sustainable development policies; and*
- *That specific financial resources should be provided to develop programmes that encourage economic and social substitution policies.*

At the Summit, the UN was also called on to negotiate an international legal agreement on desertification, to hold talks on preventing the depletion of certain fish stocks (see *Agreement on High Seas Fishing*, page 23), to devise a programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States and to establish mechanisms for ensuring the implementation of the Rio accords.

## **UN Follow-Up**

The Earth Summit succeeded in presenting new perspectives on economic progress. It was lauded as the beginning of a new era and its success would be measured by the implementation — locally, nationally and internationally — of its agreements. Those attending the Summit understood that making the necessary changes would not be easy: it would be a multi-phased process; it would take place at different rates in different parts



of the world; and it would require the expenditure of funds now in order to prevent much larger financial and environmental costs in the future.

In Rio, the UN was given a key role in the implementation of Agenda 21. Since then, the Organization has taken steps to integrate concepts of sustainable development into all relevant policies and programmes. Income-generating projects increasingly take into account environmental consequences. Development assistance programmes are increasingly directed towards women, given their central roles as producers and as caretakers of families. Efforts to manage forests in a sustainable manner begin with finding alternatives to meet the needs of people who are overusing them. The moral and social imperatives for alleviating poverty are given additional urgency by the recognition that poor people can cause damage to the environment. And foreign investment decisions increasingly take into account the fact that drawing down the earth's natural resources for short-term profit is bad for business in the long run.

In adopting Agenda 21, the Earth Summit also requested the United Nations to initiate talks aimed at halting the rapid depletion of certain fish stocks and preventing conflict over fishing on the high seas. After negotiations spanning more than two years, the UN Agreement on High Seas Fishing was opened for signature on 4 December 1995. It provides for all species of straddling and highly migratory fish — those which swim between national economic zones or migrate across broad areas of the ocean — to be subject to quotas designed to ensure the continued survival of fish for our children and grandchildren to enjoy (*see Agreement on High Seas Fishing, page 23*).

Also at the Summit, Governments requested the UN to hold negotiations for an international legal agreement to prevent the degradation of drylands. The resulting **International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa**, was opened for signing in October 1994 and entered into force in December 1996. It calls for urgent action to be taken in Africa, where some 66 per cent of the continent is desert or drylands and 73 per cent of agricultural drylands are already degraded.

In order to promote the well-being of people living in island countries, the Summit called for the UN to convene a **Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**. The Conference was held in Barbados in May 1994 and produced a programme of action designed to assist these environmentally and economically vulnerable countries (*see chapter on the Small Islands Conference, page 79*).

In addition, three bodies were created within the United Nations to ensure full support for implementation of Agenda 21 worldwide:

- *The UN Commission on Sustainable Development, which first met in June 1993 (see below);*
- *The Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development, set up by the Secretary-General in 1992 to ensure effective system-wide cooperation and coordination in the follow-up to the Summit; and*
- *The High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development, established in 1993 to advise the Secretary-General and the Commission on issues relating to the implementation of Agenda 21.*

**UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)** — The Earth Summit called on the General Assembly to establish the Commission under the Economic and Social Council as a means of supporting and encouraging action by Governments, business, industry and other non-governmental groups to bring about the social and economic changes needed for sustainable development. Each year, the Commission reviews imple-



mentation of the Earth Summit agreements, provides policy guidance to Governments and major groups involved in sustainable development and strengthens Agenda 21 by devising additional strategies where necessary. It also promotes dialogue and builds partnerships between Governments and the major groups which are seen as key to achieving sustainable development worldwide. The work of the Commission was supported by numerous inter-sessional meetings and activities initiated by Governments, international organizations and major groups. In June 1997, the General Assembly will hold a special session to review overall progress following the Earth Summit.

Under a multi-year thematic work programme, the Commission has monitored the early implementation of Agenda 21 in stages. Each sectoral issue — health, human settlements, freshwater, toxic chemicals and hazardous waste, land, agriculture, desertification, mountains, forests, biodiversity, atmosphere, oceans and seas — was reviewed between 1994 and 1996. Developments on most “cross-sectoral” issues are considered each year. These issues, which must be addressed if action in sectoral areas is to be effective, are clustered as follows: critical elements of sustainability (trade and environment, patterns of production and consumption, combating poverty, demographic dynamics); financial resources and mechanisms; education, science, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, technical cooperation and capacity-building; decision-making; and activities of the major groups, such as business and labour.

In 1995, the Commission established under its auspices the **Intergovernmental Panel on Forests** with a broad mandate covering the entire spectrum of forest-related issues and dealing with conservation, sustainable development and management of all types of forests. The Panel will submit its final report containing concrete conclusions and proposals for action to the 1997 session of the CSD. Reports submitted annually by Governments are the main basis for monitoring progress and identifying problems faced by countries. By mid-1996, some 100 Governments had established national sustainable development councils or other coordinating bodies. More than 2,000 municipal and town governments had each formulated a local Agenda 21 of its own. Many countries were seeking legislative approval for sustainable development plans, and the level of NGO involvement remained high.

### **Standard-setting**

Central to the ability of Governments to formulate policies for sustainability and to regulate their impact is the development of a set of internationally accepted criteria and indicators for sustainable development. The Commission on Sustainable Development is spearheading this work, which will enable countries to gather and report the data needed to measure progress on Agenda 21. It is hoped that a “menu” of indicators — from which Governments will choose those appropriate to local conditions — will be used by countries in their national plans and strategies and, subsequently, when they report to the Commission.

Achieving sustainable development worldwide depends largely on changing patterns of production and consumption — what we produce, how it is produced and how much we consume, particularly in the developed countries. CSD's work programme in this area focuses on projected trends in consumption and production; impacts on developing countries, including trade opportunities; assessment of the effectiveness of policy instruments, including new and innovative instruments; progress by countries through their timebound voluntary commitments; and extension and revision of UN guidelines for consumer protection.



In 1995, the Commission also adopted a work programme on the transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity building. The programme places an emphasis on three interrelated priority areas: access to and dissemination of information, capacity building for managing technological change, and financial and partnership arrangements. The Commission is working with the World Trade Organization, the UN Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to ensure that trade, environment and sustainable development issues are mutually reinforcing.

After pointing to an emerging water crisis, the Commission asked for a global assessment of all freshwater sources to be completed by 1997. In 1995, it set up an intergovernmental panel, reporting to the Commission, to provide a central forum for continued discussions on the management and sustainable development of forests and to ensure implementation of the Rio agreements.

### **Financing Sustainable Development**

At Rio, it was agreed that most financing for Agenda 21 would come from within a country's own public and private sectors. However, new and additional external funds were considered necessary if developing countries were to adopt sustainable development practices. Of the estimated \$600 billion required annually by developing countries to implement Agenda 21, most — \$475 billion — was to be transferred from economic activities in those countries.

A further \$125 billion would be needed in new and additional funds from external sources, some \$70 billion more than current levels of official development assistance (ODA). According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), between 1992 and 1995, levels of ODA fell from about \$60.8 billion to \$59.2 billion, despite a call at Rio for donor countries to more than double their official assistance.

Other monies are available for implementation of Agenda 21. The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** was set up in 1991. It is implemented by the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme. The GEF provides funding for activities aimed at achieving global environmental benefits in four areas: climate change, loss of biodiversity, pollution of international waters and the depletion of the ozone layer. At Rio, the Facility became the funding mechanism for activities under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity. In 1994, the scope of the GEF's funding was broadened to include land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, where this is linked to the four focal areas above. Since 1992, some \$2 billion has been pledged for activities supported by the GEF.

In the years since the Earth Summit, the level of funding channelled to many of the developing countries as direct private investment has increased significantly and now far outstrips official flows. In 1995, this reportedly amounted to some \$95 billion. Efforts are being made to ensure that activities supported by these funds are also environmentally sustainable.

### **Five Years After Rio**

In June 1997, the world's attention will again focus on the Earth Summit. When Governments meet in New York for the UN General Assembly's special session to review progress since Rio, the question will be: What changes have the major players — including



Governments, international policy makers, businesses, trade unions, farmers and women's groups — been able to bring about in the five years since Rio? A great deal has happened, but, in the view of some, not nearly enough to achieve the Summit's goals. There is growing awareness of the many "negative incentives" which continue to encourage people to become wasteful consumers. The Commission intends to elaborate for the 1997 special session of the GA concrete proposals for mechanisms and policy instruments to facilitate achieving the aims of Rio.



## **Chapter 3**

### **World Conference on Human Rights**





*Conference:* **World Conference on Human Rights  
Vienna, 14-25 June 1993**

*Informal name:* **The Human Rights Conference**

*Host Government:* **Austria**

*Number of Governments participating:* **171**

*Conference Secretary-General:* **Mr. Ibrahima Fall, Assistant Secretary-General,  
Human Rights**

*Organizer:* **Centre for Human Rights (Conference Secretariat)**

*Principal themes:* **The promotion and protection of human rights**

*NGO presence:* **More than 800 non-governmental organizations**

*Resulting documents:* **The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action**

*Follow-up mechanisms:* **Commission on Human Rights and its sub-  
commissions; High Commissioner/Centre for  
Human Rights; Human Rights Treaty monitoring  
bodies; Special Rapporteurs; Commission  
on the Status of Women**

*Previous conference:* **International Conference on Human Rights  
Tehran, Iran, 1968**



## The Human Rights Conference

**T**HE 1993 WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS THE FIRST global review of human rights and the work of the UN in this area since 1968. The Conference, which culminated nearly two years of preparatory meetings in all regions of the world, brought together some 7,000 participants, including an unprecedented number of government delegates; representatives from UN treaty bodies, academia and national institutions; and representatives of more than 800 non-governmental organizations. The representatives from 171 nations adopted by consensus the **Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action**, which outlines a common plan for strengthening the implementation of human rights and highlights the crucial links between development, democracy and the promotion of human rights.

United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a message to the Conference, told the delegates that by adopting the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action they had renewed the international community's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. He saluted the meeting for having forged "a new vision for global action for human rights into the next century".

The Vienna Declaration provides the international community with a new framework for planning, dialogue and cooperation that will enable a holistic approach to promoting human rights and involve actors at all levels — international, national and local.

Preparations for the Conference had revealed how complex many human rights issues remain within the international community, but the Vienna Declaration marked some major advances towards more wide-ranging consensus with far-reaching implications for all countries.

- *By underscoring the universality, indivisibility, and interdependence of civil rights, cultural, economic, political, and social, the Conference confirmed that the protection and promotion of human rights, as the birthright of all human beings, is the first responsibility of Governments. While the significance of particular cultural and historical context in each country must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.*
- *Despite sensitivity regarding respect for national sovereignty voiced by several delegations, it was agreed that in the framework of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the promotion and protection of all human rights is a legitimate concern of the international community. It welcomed the convening of emergency sessions of the Commission on Human Rights to respond to acute violations of human rights.*
- *The legitimacy of the right to development, also a controversial issue among some Member States, was reaffirmed as an integral part of fundamental human rights. The Vienna Declaration states that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level.*



- *The Declaration also underscored the specific rights of particularly vulnerable groups, including women, indigenous people, refugees, children, disabled people, detainees and victims of enforced disappearance and migrant workers and their families and recommended specific measures to better protect them.*
- *In the case of women's rights, which are forcefully pressed throughout the Declaration, the Conference called for the establishment of a special rapporteur on violence against women. In calling for an end to the marginalization and repression of indigenous people around the world, it recommended that the General Assembly proclaim 1994-2004 as an International Decade for World Indigenous People so that the issue remain high on the international agenda.*
- *The Conference pointed out that extreme poverty and social exclusion are a "violation of human dignity" which requires that States foster participation by the poorest members of society in the decision-making process by the community in which they live, the promotion of human rights and efforts to combat extreme poverty.*
- *The Vienna Declaration makes concrete recommendations for strengthening and harmonizing the UN human rights bodies. Key among these recommendations, the Conference called for the consideration by the General Assembly, as a matter of priority, of the question of the establishment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights for the promotion and protection of all human rights and to ensure better coordination of the UN programmes and oversee the implementation of the Programme of Action. Although there was significant resistance to the creation of this position, the proposal was endorsed in Vienna and the General Assembly established the post later that year. The High Commissioner has received a broad mandate and its establishment greatly facilitates the coordination of the human rights work of the UN system and enhances its ability to respond to requests for assistance from outside the system.*

## **Background**

One of the great achievements of the United Nations is the creation of a comprehensive body of human rights legislation. Beginning with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the United Nations has elaborated, for the first time in history, an international code of human rights, based on those rights which are inherent in our nature and without which we cannot live fully as human beings. These human rights and fundamental freedoms allow us to develop and enjoy our greatest qualities, our intelligence, our talents and our conscience, and to satisfy our spiritual and other needs as individuals as well as members of groups or societies.

Not only has the Organization painstakingly defined a broad range of internationally accepted rights, covering civil rights, cultural, economic, political and social, it has also established effective mechanisms with which to promote and protect these rights and to assist Governments in carrying out their responsibilities. It has helped educate and inform people in almost every nation of their inalienable rights, and has helped develop many national judicial and penal systems, through various programmes and technical advice, in accordance with the **International Bill of Human Rights** and nearly 80 conventions.

The UN Commission on Human Rights is the main human rights organ of the United Nations. Made up of 53 Member States elected for three-year terms, the Commission is



the forum where States, intergovernmental bodies and human rights organizations can voice their concerns about human rights. It is the only intergovernmental body that holds public meetings on human rights violations wherever they occur in the world, thus helping focus world attention. It reviews the human rights performance of countries and receives complaints about violations. The Commission's special rapporteurs and working groups monitor the human rights situation in specific countries, or specific abuses such as "disappearances" and torture.

The end of the cold war has had a profound impact on the way the international community views human rights issues. While the UN has made great strides in defining a broad range of human rights and creating legislation for their observance, many countries and organizations argued that their implementation had often been impeded by cold war politics and that the enforcement of these conventions needed to be strengthened.

In 1989, the General Assembly called for the convening of a world meeting that would review and assess progress made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, and identify obstacles and ways in which they might be overcome. The first global meeting on human rights had taken place in Tehran in 1968. In calling for the second world conference since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, there was an overwhelming sense that human rights needed to be better integrated into the overall policies and programmes promoting economic and social development, democratic structures, peacekeeping and peacemaking efforts. In this sense, Vienna — and its follow-up — reflects a consensus reached by the international community on human rights issues.

### **UN Follow-Up**

During the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, Member States identified human rights as a central issue for the future agenda of the Organization and of the world community in general. As highlighted by the World Conference, recent experience confirms that the UN human rights programme must be adapted in the post-Vienna period so it can respond to the increasing demands for more effective human rights promotion and protection around the world.

The focal point for human rights in the UN system is the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights with the High Commissioner as the Head of the Office. The High Commissioner is the United Nations official with principal responsibility for human rights activities. Among his particular responsibilities are: promoting and protecting the effective enjoyment by all of all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including the right to development; providing advisory services and technical and financial assistance in the field of human rights; enhancing international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights and coordination of the human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system; playing an active role in removing the obstacles to the full realization of all human rights and in preventing the continuation of human rights violations; engaging in a dialogue with all governments in the implementation of his/her mandate with a view to securing respect for all human rights.

In the two years since the appointment of the High Commissioner, his work has focused on making human rights a reality through cooperation with the Member States and NGO's and greater coordination of human rights efforts within the UN system, particularly with the Commission on Human Rights and its system of special rapporteurs who are mandated to investigate human rights abuses around the world.



An important new development in the area of prevention of human rights violations is establishing human rights field presence, in the form of either larger field operations or smaller field offices. A field presence can greatly facilitate the effective implementation of human rights and contribute to preventing conflicts by fostering full respect for the dignity of the human being. In 1992, there were no human rights field operations, whereas now there is a UN human rights presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Malawi, Rwanda and Zaire. New field activities are under preparation.

One of the central functions of the office of the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights is to service the UN Commission on Human Rights, which provides a forum for States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to voice their concern on human rights issues, the treaty-based bodies, the special rapporteurs and working groups acting in the field of human rights.

Much of the High Commissioner's effort has been engaged on restructuring and strengthening the part of the Secretariat responsible for human rights, along the lines recommended by the Conference in Vienna, and achieving a higher degree of professionalism and efficiency to increase its capacity for action. However, despite specific language in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action calling for substantial increases in the funding of the human rights activities, recent budget cuts Secretariat-wide have had an impact on the ability of the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights to carry out its activities. Nevertheless, voluntary funding and support for the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights has enabled it to increase its fieldwork capacity.

The High Commissioner/Centre provided important assistance for the human rights components of the UN missions in El Salvador and in Cambodia. Regarding specific missions that have been organized by the High Commissioner, the European Commission has agreed to provide specially trained and fully equipped personnel to the UN field operation in Rwanda, a mission that began in 1994 and continues to operate. The Commission has also agreed to provide financial support to the preventive human rights action of the High Commissioner in Burundi and Colombia. The High Commissioner also works closely together with the OSCE in the implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreements in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, especially Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as in the preparation of the programme for Abkhazia, Georgia.

One practical measure taken by the High Commissioner is the setting up of a 24-hour fax hotline (the hotline telephone number in Geneva, Switzerland, is 41-22-917-0092) that will help monitor and react quickly to crisis situations. This ability to communicate immediately with the High Commissioner can mean the difference between life and death for some people.

The High Commissioner/Centre is also establishing an overall human rights data base to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights, support the activities of human rights organs and bodies, and develop activities aimed at the prevention of human rights violations. An electronically available database is expected to make human rights activities more effective and less expensive.

On a broader scale, the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), the UN system-wide coordinating body, put human rights on its agenda for the first time ever in 1994. It has called for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action by all the Organization's agencies and programmes, specifically requiring:

- *Assessment of the impact of their strategies and policies on human rights;*
- *Examination of ways to facilitate inter-agency cooperation;*



- *Strengthening training programmes on human rights for international civil servants;*
- *Supporting the High Commissioner in his system-wide coordination responsibilities.*

The High Commissioner has also taken concrete steps to institutionalize cooperation and coordination with UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP, the UN Volunteers and UNHCR. Similarly, he entered into close cooperation with the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peace-Keeping Operations and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, among others, on early-warning efforts to identify potential crises and intervene before they escalate.

The Vienna Conference also gave renewed energy to a range of technical cooperation programmes aimed at strengthening democratic institutions and national human rights infrastructures. Typical of these efforts is the agreement between the Centre and the Government of Malawi in connection with advisory services and technical cooperation in the area of human rights. It focuses on priority needs such as constitutional reform, assistance to the judiciary and the penal system, training of the police and the military, human rights education in primary and secondary schools and support to partners in the media and the NGO community.

Also growing out of the need for dissemination of human rights knowledge and information highlighted by the Conference, the General Assembly proclaimed in 1994 the **UN Decade for Human Rights Education**, 1995-2004, which, among other things, encourages the establishment of national committees composed of representatives from the public and private sectors.

The World Conference recommended strengthening of the system of special procedures: rapporteurs, representatives, experts and working groups which have a special mandate to investigate a range of human rights problems. Their number has increased to 31. Some of these are thematic, like the Special Rapporteurs and Working Groups on violence against women, torture, sale of children, effects of toxic and dangerous products on the enjoyment of human rights, etc., and others specific to problems of a given country, such as Special Rapporteurs/Representatives on the former Yugoslavia, Iraq, Myanmar, Rwanda, Cuba, etc. There are also independent experts who provide advisory services. The holders of the mandates are meeting annually to explore ways to cope with their ever-increasing workloads more efficiently. In their fact-finding, advisory and other assistance, they recognized the need for in-depth analysis of frequently very complex situations to come up with critical yet well-targeted courses of action.

In its promotion of women's rights and support for the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the work in Vienna has been advanced in Cairo, Copenhagen, Beijing and Istanbul. All these conferences have incorporated new aspects of women's rights into their declarations and into their follow-up and insisted on the complete integration of women's rights into the mainstream work of the UN system.

In 1998 there will be a five-year review of the implementation of the Vienna Declaration.

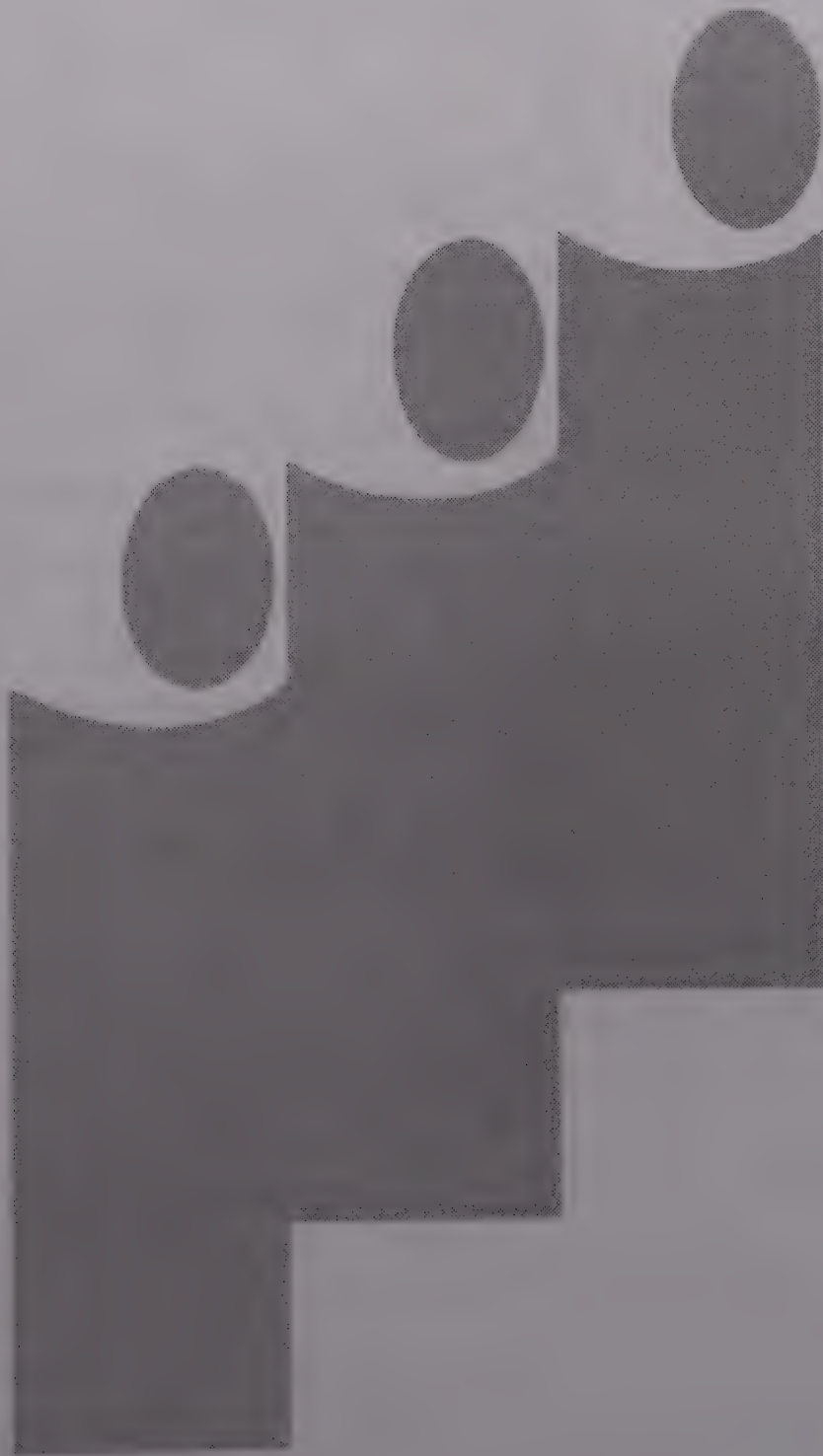






## **Chapter 4**

### **International Conference on Population and Development**





<i>Conference:</i>	<b>International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Cairo, 5-13 September 1994</b>
<i>Informal name:</i>	<b>The Population Conference</b>
<i>Host Government:</i>	<b>Egypt</b>
<i>Number of Governments participating:</i>	<b>179</b>
<i>Conference Secretary-General:</i>	<b>Dr. Safis Nadik, Executive Director, UN Population Fund (UNFPA)</b>
<i>Organizers:</i>	<b>UNFPA, the Population Division of the UN Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis (DESIPA)</b>
<i>Principal themes:</i>	<b>Population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development</b>
<i>NGO presence:</i>	<b>4,200 representatives of over 1,500 non- governmental organizations from 113 countries attended the independent NGO Forum'94 held parallel to the official conference</b>
<i>Resulting document:</i>	<b>Programme of Action of the ICPD</b>
<i>Follow-up mechanisms:</i>	<b>UN Commission on Population and Development; ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All (BSSA)</b>
<i>Previous conferences:</i>	<b>Rome (1954), Belgrade (1965), Bucharest (1974), and Mexico City (1984)</b>



# The Population Conference

**T**HE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (ICPD) adopted by acclamation a **Programme of Action** that will guide national and international policies on population and development for the next 20 years. The Programme endorses a new strategy which focuses on meeting the needs of individual women and men rather than on achieving demographic targets. It underscores the links between development and population and seeks to enable everyone to exercise their reproductive rights, including the right to determine the number and spacing of their children, through the provision of voluntary, quality family planning and reproductive health care programmes. This should be carried out alongside efforts to increase access to education, especially for girls, and to improve primary health care delivery systems in general. In essence, the ICDP Programme of Action provides an unprecedented framework for all people to seek and enhance, freely and responsibly, their own health and well-being. Rather than viewing people as numbers and objects of government policy — and considering population in isolation — the international community has made a commitment to people-centred services, based on people-centred development.

At the heart of the ICPD Programme of Action is the recognition that efforts to slow population growth, eliminate gender inequality, reduce poverty, achieve economic progress and protect the environment are mutually reinforcing. The Conference called for the empowerment of women and the guarantee of reproductive rights, including the right to determine the number of one's children, as fundamentally important in their own right; it also recognized that meeting these goals would help to stabilize population growth and contribute to sustainable development.

## **ICPD Programme Sets 20-Year Goals in Three Related Areas**

- *Making family planning universally available by 2015, or sooner, as part of a broadened approach to reproductive health and rights, thus reducing infant, child and maternal mortality levels as well;*
- *Integrating population concerns into all policies and programmes aimed at achieving sustainable development;*
- *Empowering women and girls and providing them with more choices through expanded access to education and health services and to employment opportunities.*

The Programme emphasizes that adolescents need access to reproductive health information and services; that reproductive health programmes need to involve men as well as women; and that non-governmental organizations should help to formulate, implement and monitor programmes. The Programme of Action also made recommendations in regard to HIV/AIDS prevention, internal and international migration and unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, among other issues. Consensus



on most of these issues was reached during the 18-month preparatory process leading up to the conference.

The ICPD reaffirmed the global consensus that voluntary family-planning decisions are a basic human right of all couples and individuals, and that coercion in any form is unacceptable. Within this human rights framework, the Cairo conference advocated the integration of family-planning activities into a wider effort to meet reproductive health needs. Under this new approach, family-planning information and services are to be provided as part of a comprehensive approach to reproductive health care which also includes prenatal, safe delivery and post-natal care; prevention of abortion and management of the consequences of unsafe abortions; prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS; prevention of infertility; screening for reproductive tract infections and cervical and breast cancer; and active discouragement of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation.

## **Background**

At the **World Population Conference** (Bucharest, 1974), the international community highlighted common concerns over emerging population issues by adopting the **World Population Plan of Action**, which has helped Governments and the international community coordinate trends in economic and social development in the area of population. This plan, which is reviewed and modified by the UN every five years, has provided the principles and objectives for guiding national and international policies regarding population.

Among the principles outlined in the Plan of Action, which have been repeatedly reaffirmed by Member States since 1974, are that:

- *The formulation and implementation of population policies are the sovereign right of each nation;*
- *All couples and individuals have the right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so;*
- *Population and development are interrelated.*

The **International Conference on Population** in Mexico City in 1984 adopted a declaration and several recommendations for the World Population Plan of Action which placed a greater emphasis on the need to improve the status of women and called on Governments to ensure universal access to family planning information and services. It is this amended and refined Plan that served as the basis for the negotiations around the Programme of Action in Cairo in 1994.

## **Controversial Issues**

ICPD greatly raised awareness of population issues that are usually the domain of experts and policy makers. The Conference became a major media event and the controversial debates around abortion and reproductive rights attracted world attention to the event over the course of two weeks. After several days of debate on abortion, the Conference agreed that Governments should strive "to deal with the health impact of unsafe abortion as a major public health concern and to reduce the recourse to abortion through expanded and improved family planning services". The final text also states: "In no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning... In circumstances in which abortion is not against the law, such abortion



should be safe. In all cases women should have access to quality services for the management of complications arising from abortion.” It also called on countries to review legislation that punishes women who have undergone illegal abortion. Another pivotal compromise affirmed “the right of men and women to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice for the regulation of fertility which are not against the law”.

### **Setting Goals**

At Cairo, delegates agreed to specific resource targets for international population assistance, based on estimates of what is required to enable all countries to make reproductive health and family planning accessible to all individuals no later than 2015. Achieving this goal will require an estimated \$17 billion for the year 2000 and more than \$21 billion per year by 2015, one third of which, it was agreed, must come from the international community. These total figures represent more than a threefold increase in international population assistance levels. Since the ICPD, a number of donor countries have indicated their willingness to increase population assistance, and many developing countries have increased their spending in this area.

### **The Other World Conferences**

In addition to the 1974 World Plan of Action, the Programme of Action builds on the outcomes of the Earth Summit, namely Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration, as well as the agreements reached at the 1990 World Summit for Children and the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights. In turn, the ICPD’s emphasis on meeting people’s needs and empowering women influenced the results of the the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, both in 1995, and Habitat II in 1996.

The ICPD, the Earth Summit, the World Conference on Human Rights, the Social Summit and the Women’s Conference affirm that demographic trends cannot be considered in isolation from development. There were clear messages from Cairo that women’s empowerment is key to achieving sustainable development and that they must be full and equal partners in the development process. The ICPD Programme of Action argues that ensuring women’s reproductive health and reproductive rights is essential to women’s empowerment and advancement. The dialogue and debates on these issues throughout the Cairo process paved the way for the inclusion of a strong section on reproductive rights and health in the Platform for Action of the Women’s Conference in Beijing, one year later. Both conferences were successful for focusing attention on practical interventions to improve the well-being of individual women and men and on the importance of monitoring the implementation of the action plans.

### **UN Follow-up**

The United Nations was given explicit tasks regarding the follow-up to ICPD. The General Assembly oversees the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action. ECOSOC is expected to provide coordination as well as a clear division of labour in population-relevant policy formulation, development cooperation and resource mobilization within the UN system.



In March 1995, the intergovernmental Commission on Population was renamed the **Commission on Population and Development** and given immediate responsibility for monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. It adopted a topic-oriented, multi-year work programme, considering five reports annually, each focusing on different aspects of the designated theme of the year. The theme for 1996 was reproductive rights and reproductive health, including population information, education and communication (IEC).

An Inter-Agency Task Force on the Implementation of the Programme of Action, chaired by the Executive Director of UNFPA, was created to enhance collaboration at the country level. In 1995, it developed a set of Guidelines for the United Nations Resident Coordinator System to facilitate cooperation among Governments, NGOs, UN agencies and other development partners involved in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action.

In 1996, the UN's Administrative Committee on Coordination, which represents the heads of all UN specialized agencies and programmes system-wide, expanded the mandate of the ICPD Inter-Agency force and reconstituted it as the **ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All (BSSA)** in an effort to coordinate the plans of action of other conferences as well (*see annex 1, page 99*).

The BSSA mandate includes:

- *Population, with special emphasis on reproductive health and family planning services;*
- *Basic education;*
- *Primary health care;*
- *Drinking water and sanitation;*
- *Shelter; and*
- *Social services in post-crisis situations.*

UNFPA, designated as the lead United Nations organization for the follow-up and implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, has reoriented its programme focus and operational strategies to the three main areas: reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health; population and development strategies; and advocacy.

### **Government follow-up**

Countries in all regions have drawn up national plans of action (NPAs) which spell out how they will work, in terms of their national priorities, to achieve the goals agreed to in Cairo. Workshops are being held at the national level to clarify what is meant by a "reproductive health approach", and women are taking an active part in designing and implementing components in this sector. A number of countries have put into place programmes to address the reproductive health needs of adolescents, many of which are being undertaken in conjunction with non-governmental organizations.

Key to implementing the action plans is the identification of new financial resources at the national and international levels. UNFPA is working with the donor community to secure additional external resources for population and with developing countries to enhance the effectiveness of their allocation of resources. Since the ICPD, a number of donor countries have announced their intentions to increase funds for population-related activities. Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Denmark and the European Union have already made significant increases in their support. Nevertheless,



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## Implementing the Programme of Action

**S**ince the ICPD, many Governments have started to reorient and re-examine existing policies regarding the integration of family planning into official reproductive health programmes. In Guinea, for example, the Ministry of Health has begun reviewing its Safe Motherhood/Family Planning programme with the aim of transforming it into a Reproductive Health/Family Planning programme.

Indonesia initiated the shift from family planning to reproductive health even before the ICPD, and will accelerate the transition in its current five-year programme (1995-1999). The Government of Paraguay revised its national plan for reproductive health and family planning, elaborated just before the Cairo conference, to adjust it to the new focus, principles and recommendations of the ICPD Programme of Action.

### **Reducing Maternal Mortality**

In an effort to reduce high levels of maternal mortality, Uganda is developing a pioneering, cost-effective referral system aimed at improving the health system's response to pregnancy-related emergencies. The new system, Rural Extended Services and Care for Ultimate Emergency Relief (RESCUER), addresses transportation and communication problems that hindered referrals in the past. A radio communication network links traditional birth attendants (TBAs) in villages with health referral points. When emergencies arise, TBAs contact a doctor at the referral point and receive appropriate instructions. If necessary, a vehicle is dispatched to transport the woman for emergency care.

### **Addressing Adolescent Needs**

Some countries have found innovative ways to address adolescent sexuality and reproductive health needs, which in the past have often been largely ignored. Uganda has started a participatory process that led it to form the Programme for Enhancing Adolescent Reproductive Life (PEARL), which aims to enhance the reproductive health of Ugandan adolescents by providing appropriate counselling and services. To ensure sustainability, PEARL calls for young people and community leaders to take a leading role in implementation efforts.

### **Male Partners**

Gender concerns are increasingly being taken into account in reproductive health programme designs and implementation. For example, Mexico has established a special unit within the Directorate General of Reproductive Health to advise on the inclusion of gender issues in its programme.

In Côte d'Ivoire, male nurses are being trained to reduce the barriers that keep men from using health care facilities. The reproductive health programme is also producing information materials targeting male family heads. Similar programmes are being implemented in India and other countries. In the Philippines, male peer counsellors are being trained to convince married men to practise or support family planning; this approach was adopted after research found that many husbands prevent their wives from practising family planning. A number of other countries are taking a similar approach. The Philippines has also established the first reproductive health centre catering to the specific needs of men. In Sierra Leone, an NGO runs a similar male-only clinic.



current assistance levels remain well below the estimated need for the year 2000. Following the ICPD, the United States also pledged to increase its support, but in late 1995 the US Congress sharply reduced both bilateral and multilateral population-related assistance.

Many developing-country Governments, although financially hard-pressed, have already invested more resources in population-related activities. Others are reorienting their family-planning programmes to correspond with the broader vision of reproductive health and reproductive rights embodied in the ICPD Programme of Action.

As a result of the ICPD, countries have begun to focus on the recommendations made in the ICPD Programme of Action, particularly on integrating population into development planning, on promoting gender equality and women's advancement, and on ensuring that all women and men have access to a full range of reproductive health services. Many countries have taken initial steps to broaden existing family planning and related health programmes to include other reproductive health information and services.

Many countries report working to improve the quality of care within programmes, taking an approach which enables the clients — usually women — to make choices for themselves. This is a break from past practice in many countries, where doctors and health workers used to decide what was best for the woman. Training of medical staff is being stepped up to increase their number and expand services, particularly in rural areas.

The Programme of Action's call for appropriate reproductive health services and counselling for adolescents, both married and unmarried, has put this issue on the political agenda for the first time in many countries. A number of programme initiatives have also been started to involve men more fully in reproductive health programmes.

### **NGO Follow-up**

The ICPD, like other recent global conferences, recognized that planning and carrying out development activities requires a partnership that includes civil society. Non-governmental organizations were crucial to the agreement achieved in Cairo, and are playing an important role in ensuring that population programmes really implement the ICPD recommendations.

NGO involvement in the reproductive health field differs greatly from country to country. In some countries, NGOs were heavily involved before the ICPD; NGO involvement in others is still only marginal, but in general seems to be growing. The Family Planning Association of Iran, which had been inactive for several years, was reactivated after the ICPD.

In many developing countries, NGOs continue to provide a large volume of reproductive health services, information and education, thereby increasing both demand for and access to these services.

More and more NGOs are participating in national committees or councils set up by several Governments to coordinate national implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. NGOs are also increasingly collaborating and networking among themselves to expand their influence in project formulation and execution. In Ethiopia, for example, 11 NGOs have established a Consortium of Non-Governmental Organizations in Family Planning.

Traditionally, NGOs have played an important role in providing information and services to segments of society not well-served by official programmes, such as the poor, adolescents, commercial sex workers, unmarried couples and men. They have also



addressed sensitive or controversial issues such as abortion, violence against women and traditional practices that harm women.

Where Governments are sometimes reluctant to address adolescent sexuality and reproductive health needs, non-governmental organizations often fill the gap. Many NGOs and other local or community-based organizations are uniquely positioned to work in this area. In India, for instance, several NGOs have established long-term health and education programmes for rural and urban adolescents. Ghana introduced family life education (FLE) programmes in schools during the early 1970s, and the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana and the Young Women's Christian Association established FLE Clubs alongside Youth Counselling and Vocational Centres.

The ICPD's emphasis on a comprehensive approach to reproductive health has also influenced the work of NGOs. Traditional family-planning NGOs are increasingly including other reproductive health services in their clinics, and are training their staffs in the implications of this new concept of reproductive health.







## Chapter 5

### World Summit for Social Development



<i>Conference:</i>	<b>World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995</b>
<i>Informal name:</i>	<b>The Social Summit</b>
<i>Host Government:</i>	<b>Denmark</b>
<i>Number of Governments participating:</i>	<b>186 States participated, 117 at the level of heads of State or Government</b>
<i>Chairman of the Preparatory Committee:</i>	<b>Ambassador Juan Somavía (Chile)</b>
<i>President of the Conference:</i>	<b>Mr. Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, Prime Minister of Denmark</b>
<i>Organizers:</i>	<b>Social Summit Secretariat in the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD)</b>
<i>Principal themes:</i>	<b>Social development, with three core issues: eradication of poverty, expansion of productive employment and reduction of unemployment, and social integration</b>
<i>NGO presence:</i>	<b>About 4,500 representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended the parallel NGO Forum '95, while 811 NGOs participated in the Social Summit itself, represented by 2,315 individuals</b>
<i>Resulting document:</i>	<b>Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action</b>
<i>Follow-up mechanisms:</i>	<b>Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly; and the UN Inter-Agency Task Forces (see annex I, page 99)</b>



# The Social Summit

**T**HE 1995 WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (WSSD) REPRESENTED a landmark shift by Governments to support policies that promote a people-centred framework for social development and justice. Reflecting the pressing social problems common to both industrialized and developing countries, the Summit focused on the eradication of poverty, the expansion of productive employment and reduction of unemployment and the promotion of social integration as the principal subjects of discussion and proposed action. In many ways, the Social Summit was the centrepiece in the series of global conferences and summits on development issues sponsored by the United Nations. Together, these meetings have helped define the critical components of a new development agenda for the coming decade, one that places people and societies at the centre of the policy-making process. The extensive commitments and recommendations contained in the 125-page **Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action** were endorsed by the heads of State and leaders of over 180 countries and represent the largest international consensus ever achieved on key social development priorities at such a high political level. Hundreds of non-governmental organizations and other representatives of civil society also participated and helped shape the Copenhagen agreements.

In particular, Governments committed themselves to the goal of eradicating poverty as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind. They agreed to take immediate steps to ensure that people living in poverty have access to productive resources, including credit, land, education and training, technology, knowledge and information and public services. They pledged, furthermore, to formulate or strengthen national policies and strategies geared to substantially reducing overall poverty in the shortest time possible. They also agreed to ensure that national budgets and policies are oriented to meeting the basic needs of all people, reducing inequalities and targeting poverty as a strategic objective.

The Summit Declaration cited 10 commitments, each followed by specific recommendations for action at the national and international levels. They include, in part:

- *Creating an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development;*
- *Eradicating poverty in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation, as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind; focusing policies to address the root causes of poverty, giving special priority to the rights and needs of women and children and other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups;*
- *Promoting the goal of full employment as a basic priority and enabling all men and women to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and work;*
- *Promoting social integration by fostering social stability and justice, based on non-discrimination, tolerance and the protection of all human rights, as well as*



- respect for cultural, ethnic and religious diversity, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security and the participation of all people in these efforts;*
- *Achieving equality and equity between women and men, and promoting their equal partnership in family and community life;*
  - *Promoting universal and equitable access to quality education and health care, rectifying inequities affecting women, children and vulnerable social groups;*
  - *Accelerating the economic, social and human resource development of Africa and the least developed countries by promoting the development of democratic institutions and finding effective solutions to such problems as external debt, economic reform, food security and commodity diversification;*
  - *Increasing and/or utilizing more efficiently the resources allocated to social development to achieve the goals of the Summit through national action and regional and international cooperation;*
  - *Ensuring that structural adjustment programmes (internationally sanctioned economic and fiscal reforms designed to stabilize and streamline national economies) include social development goals that promote basic social programmes while increasing the quality and efficiency of social expenditures;*
  - *Improving and strengthening the framework for international, regional and sub-regional cooperation for social development in a spirit of partnership through the United Nations and other multilateral organizations.*

## **Background**

As with the other major conferences held during the 1990s, the decision to hold the World Summit for Social Development was spurred by growing concern among Member States and the United Nations itself that problems of social development had been seriously neglected and in some cases had become unmanageable. There was wide recognition that social problems — characterized by widespread poverty and social disintegration affecting all regions of the world, social conflict and social insecurity, exacerbated by lack of employment opportunities — were producing pervasive crises. While the broad spectrum of social problems are evident to all, rich or poor, their solutions are often beyond any single Government's grasp. At the local level, the capacity of communities to provide the means for healthy, secure and rewarding lives for their citizens is increasingly in question. At the international level, despite the end to cold war rivalries and slowing military expenditures, the gap between North and South continues to grow, threatening to disrupt overall development and to jeopardize peaceful relations among nations.

While the UN has always endorsed policies that balance social as well as economic development, national development programmes of recent decades have increasingly reflected the tendency to emphasize economic growth first, in the belief that everything else will follow. From the UN point of view, the need for balanced economic and social development, recognizing the key role of the environmental component, is central. During the 1970s and early 1980s, major UN programmes, particularly those of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank, all turned their attention to meeting the "basic needs" of fully one fifth of the world's population, the



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## Policy priorities: Focus on local initiatives

**T**he critical innovation of the Copenhagen agreements is that several dimensions of social development endorsed by previous world conferences have been brought together for the first time into a coherent and integrated framework. This framework recognizes the multidimensional nature of poverty and calls for an intersectoral and holistic approach to people-centred sustainable development. Each country is expected to decide on its own mix and sequencing of policy interventions, based on a national poverty profile and differences in existing institutional capacity. The Social Summit recognized these differences and provides ample room for country specificity and adaptation. Nevertheless, a number of recent successful anti-poverty interventions supported by UN system activities suggest clear policy priorities:

- Creating an enabling economic and social environment for people-centred development;
- Empowering all people for self-reliance;
- Promoting broad-based and equitable growth;
- Enhancing household food security;
- Improving access to basic infrastructure and social services;
- Promoting job creation and sustainable livelihoods;
- Ensuring equitable access to credit and productive assets;
- Expanding social protection for vulnerable people;
- Promoting gender equity and the full participation of women in development;
- Preserving, maintaining and regenerating the natural resource base;
- Preserving people's security in the context of rapid and sometimes disruptive globalization.

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majority of them women, who live in absolute poverty and marginalization. But, in part due to economic recession and cutbacks in spending, commitment to the goals of health and education by many nations began to erode and "donor fatigue" became a concern of the early 1990s. Despite the globalization of the economy, entire nations were threatened with economic marginalization, and many continue to face social conflicts that challenge their very existence as sovereign States. The Summit sought to redress these imbalances by making social development once again an international priority.

### National Priorities

The responsibility for implementing the Social Summit commitments to its three main goals lies chiefly at the national level, with Governments working in partnership with civil society, with extensive support from the international community when required.



Priority actions for the promotion of social development have to be defined, costed and placed within a reasonable time-frame for national implementation. Experience with successful programmes can help guide the design and implementation of national poverty-eradication strategies. Priority actions set at the Summit include:

- *National poverty mapping and assessments, with rigorous attention to the gender dimensions of poverty;*
- *Setting national goals and targets for poverty elimination, with the participation of government, the private sector and community-based organizations;*
- *Capacity assessment and development;*
- *Review of national policies and budgets;*
- *Social mobilization, participation and partnerships;*
- *Decentralization of decision-making;*
- *Policy and institutional reform and coordination;*
- *Integration of social development goals into overall planning;*
- *Mobilizing resources for social development; and*
- *Aid coordination.*

Donor countries, the Bretton Woods institutions and the UN system are working with developing countries through a partnership that increasingly respects the national sovereignty and development priorities of each country. Many developing countries require the UN's substantial technical and financial assistance to strengthen their capacities for carrying out social science research, designing and implementing anti-poverty strategies, and monitoring the achievement of the Summit goal to eradicate absolute poverty and reduce overall poverty substantially.

### **UN Response**

The Social Summit's Programme of Action recognizes the critical role of the UN system in assisting developing countries to achieve acceptable levels of social development. As no single UN agency can meet this challenge alone, the Programme of Action gave the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) a specific mandate to organize UN system efforts towards capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels, and to support the coordinated implementation of social development programmes through its network of country offices.

To meet this challenge, UNDP is reorienting its programming activities to target poverty as its overriding priority concern. This means that all UNDP activities in the future will be geared towards, and be measured against, the ultimate goal of poverty eradication. UNDP's other major programming areas — gender equity, the promotion of jobs and sustainable livelihoods, environmental preservation and regeneration, and governance — which together define UNDP's sustainable human development framework, are increasingly coming into the fold of poverty eradication. At the same time, efforts are being made to strengthen coordination in the delivery of technical assistance by the UN system.

The **Commission for Social Development**, which reports to the Economic and Social Council, has the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Summit. The Commission has adapted its mandate and agenda in an effort to ensure an integrated approach to social development guided by a multi-year



programme to the year 2000. It has also opened its debates to experts and representatives of NGOs involved in the Summit.

At the recommendation of the Social Summit, the General Assembly proclaimed 1996 the **International Year for the Eradication of Poverty**, a way to highlight the issue on a global scale and encourage concrete action. A decade on this same theme began in 1997. The General Assembly will hold a special session in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the Summit's implementation and consider further actions and initiatives. Beginning in October 1996, the Government of Denmark, host to the Summit, is organizing a series of seminars, "The Copenhagen Seminars for Social Progress", which aim to provide input to the special session of the GA.

### **Inter-agency Task Forces**

The Social Summit and the other recent world conferences highlighted the need for a unified, inter-agency approach to conference follow-up and WSSD implementation. Three UN inter-agency task forces and the Committee on Women, organized by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) (*see annex I, page 99*), are focusing on joint programming and on rationalizing the delivery of UN system development assistance by the UN and its partners. For example, the **ACC Task Force on Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods**, set up in 1995 under the leadership of the ILO, is particularly relevant to WSSD follow-up, given its emphasis on creation of productive employment. This task force seeks to organize UN support for country-level generation of employment opportunities as a key element in the broader campaign against poverty. One of its primary tasks is organizing country reviews to determine the situation of employment and sustainable livelihoods, develop employment strategies and recommend ways the UN can help. It has already drawn together many of its recommendations in a synthesis report intended for use by the UNDP Resident Coordinator system. The report clearly outlines the different factors that contribute to employment and sustainable livelihoods in specific situations and identifies indicators to be used in monitoring progress. The Task Force on Enabling Environment for Economic and Social Development, chaired by the World Bank, also derives its mandate specifically from the commitments in the Copenhagen Declaration.

The challenge for all development actors now is to implement the principles and recommendations agreed upon at Copenhagen. Ultimately, achieving the Social Summit's commitment to poverty eradication, productive employment and social integration will depend on the mobilization of coordinated efforts from all social development actors. As a resolution from the General Assembly put it, meaningful progress requires "massive political will at the national and international levels to invest in people and their well-being to achieve the objectives of social development". Failure to act now, it was emphasized at the Summit, will result in staggering costs at a later stage.





## Chapter 6

### Fourth World Conference on Women



<i>Conference:</i>	<b>The Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace Beijing, 4-15 September 1995</b>
<i>Informal name:</i>	<b>The Beijing Women's Conference</b>
<i>Host Government:</i>	<b>China</b>
<i>Number of Governments participating:</i>	<b>189</b>
<i>Conference Secretary-General:</i>	<b>Mrs. Gertrude Mongella, Assistant Secretary-General, Division for the Advancement of Women</b>
<i>Organizers:</i>	<b>The Commission on the Status of Women, with the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) serving as the Conference secretariat</b>
<i>Principal themes:</i>	<b>The advancement and empowerment of women in relation to women's human rights, women and poverty, women and decision-making, the girl-child, violence against women and other areas of concern (see box on page 59)</b>
<i>NGO presence:</i>	<b>More than 5,000 representatives from 2,100 non-governmental organizations and 5,000 media representatives attended the Conference and nearly 30,000 individuals attended the independent NGO Forum '95</b>
<i>Resulting document:</i>	<b>The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action</b>
<i>Follow-up mechanisms:</i>	<b>In addition to the national mechanisms, the primary UN bodies include the Commission on the Status of Women; the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM); the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW); and the Division for the Advancement of Women</b>
<i>Previous conferences:</i>	<b>The World Conference of the International Women's Year (Mexico City, 1975); the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women (Copenhagen, 1980); the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (Nairobi, 1985)</b>



# The Beijing Women's Conference

**T**HE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION WERE ADOPTED by consensus on 15 September 1995. The Declaration embodies the commitment of the international community to the advancement of women and to the implementation of the Platform for Action, ensuring that a gender perspective is reflected in all policies and programmes at the national, regional and international levels. The Platform for Action sets out measures for national and international action for the advancement of women over the five years until 2000.

If implemented, the Platform for Action will enhance the social, economic and political empowerment of women, improve their health and their access to relevant education and promote their reproductive rights. The action plan sets time-specific targets, committing nations to carry out concrete actions in such areas as health, education, decision-making and legal reforms with the ultimate goal of eliminating all forms of discrimination against women in both public and private life.

The Conference, which brought together almost 50,000 men and women, focused on the cross-cutting issues of equality, development and peace, and analysed them from a gender perspective. It emphasized the crucial links between the advancement of women and the progress for society as a whole. It reaffirmed clearly that societal issues must be addressed from a gender perspective in order to ensure sustainable development.

The overriding message of the Fourth World Conference on Women was that the issues addressed in the Platform for Action are global and universal. Deeply entrenched attitudes and practices perpetuate inequality and discrimination against women, in public and private life, in all parts of the world. Accordingly, implementation requires changes in values, attitudes, practices and priorities at all levels. The Conference signaled a clear commitment to international norms and standards of equality between men and women; that measures to protect and promote the human rights of women and girl-children as an integral part of universal human rights must underlie all action; and that institutions at all levels must be reoriented to expedite implementation. Governments and the UN agreed to promote the "mainstreaming" of a gender perspective in policies and programmes.

## Other Advances That Were Made in the Platform

**Women's rights as human rights:** The Platform takes the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which recognizes violence against women as a human rights problem, one step further by asserting women's right "to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence".

**Right to inherit:** Traditional legal structures in many societies discriminate against women inheriting land and property. The Platform calls for a change in these structures by "enacting as appropriate, and enforcing legislation that guarantees equal rights to succession and ensures equal right to inherit, regardless of the sex of the child".



**Reviewing laws on illegal abortion:** The Platform asks nations to “consider reviewing laws containing punitive measures against women who have undergone illegal abortion”.

**Role of the family:** The Platform points out the importance of the family as the basic unit of society and recognizes the “social significance of maternity, motherhood and the role of parents in the family and in the upbringing of children”. Furthermore, it notes that maternity should not impede the full participation of women in society.

**Culture and religion:** Traditional interpretations of religious texts often marginalize the role of women in society. However, according to the Platform, religion can “contribute to fulfilling women’s and men’s moral, ethical and spiritual needs and to realizing their potential in society”.

**Rape as a war crime:** Rape, according to the Platform, is a war crime, and in some cases, an act of genocide. Those guilty of such a crime “must be punished” whenever possible.

## **Background**

The decision to hold the Fourth World Conference on Women flowed primarily from the momentum generated by the three earlier women’s conferences and from the **United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985)**, which gave international expression to and support for national women’s movements around the globe. These movements had a profound effect on the recent cycle of world conferences, from the Children’s Summit in New York, where the special needs of the girl-child were emphasized; to Rio, where the Earth Summit articulated the pressing need for recognition of women’s central role in sustainable development; to Vienna, where special emphasis was put on the equal rights of women; to Copenhagen, which underscored the central role that women have to play in combating poverty; and to Cairo and, later, Istanbul, where women’s right to control over decisions affecting their health, families and homes was affirmed. All of these Conferences prepared the way for the Beijing Conference, helping to break new ground in the struggle for equal rights and a central role for women in decision-making at all levels of society. In addition, the fact that Governments committed themselves at all of these Summits and Conferences to the empowerment of women in different areas add greater weight to follow-up strategies to the Beijing Platform for Action.

The decision by the General Assembly in 1990 to convene a World Conference in 1995 was also spurred by the growing concern, reflected in the Economic and Social Council and other forums, at the uneven pace of implementation of the **Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women by the Year 2000**, which had been adopted in 1985. Despite progress in some areas, the objectives of ensuring equality for women, preventing violence against women and advancing their participation in efforts to promote peace and in economic and political decision-making were lagging.

As agreed in Beijing, the set of actions set out in the Platform for Action “should lead to fundamental change”. To that end, immediate action and accountability are essential if the targets are to be met by the year 2000. Implementation is primarily the responsibility of Governments, but is also recognized as dependent on a wide range of institutions in the public, private and non-governmental sectors at the community, national, regional and international levels. Governments have been called upon to prepare national action plans by the end of 1996, with support from civil society.

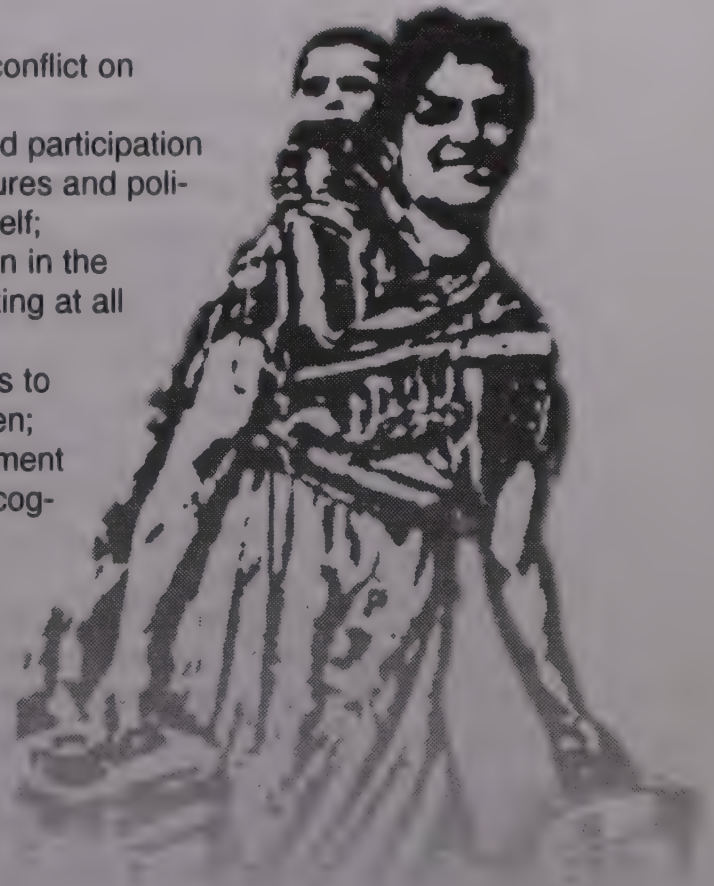


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## Concerns brought to Beijing

**P**reparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women highlighted the need to organize the agenda around specific areas of concern regarding the advancement of women. The following 12 areas were identified and served as the basis for proposals in the Platform for Action.

1. The persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women;
2. Unequal access to and inadequate educational opportunities;
3. Inequalities in health status, and unequal access to and inadequate health-care services;
4. Violence against women;
5. Effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women;
6. Inequality in women's access to and participation in the definition of economic structures and policies and the production process itself;
7. Inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels;
8. Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women;
9. Lack of awareness of, and commitment to, internationally and nationally recognized women's human rights;
10. Insufficient mobilization of mass media to promote women's positive contribution to society;
11. Lack of adequate recognition and support for women's contribution to managing natural resources and safeguarding the environment;
12. The girl-child.





## **UN Role**

The Platform for Action adopted by the Women's Conference repeatedly points to the central role that the United Nations system must play in the monitoring of its implementation, but also in facilitating implementation in many areas through its own programmes and policies. It was made clear that UN officials at the highest levels are expected to take responsibility for ensuring the integration of a gender perspective in all the work of the United Nations system and for advancing women within the Organization itself. It was also recognized that the Organization's ongoing reform and re-vitalization are essential to the effective follow-up to the commitments made in Beijing.

In particular, Beijing called for greater interaction between the key UN bodies under the Economic and Social Council that focus on women's issues, including the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The **Economic and Social Council** is responsible for overseeing the system-wide coordination of implementation of the Platform and makes recommendations, relying in large part on reports of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Council will devote its 1997 coordination segment to the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system. It plans to dedicate at least one high-level segment before the year 2000 to the advancement of women and implementation of the Platform for Action with the participation of the specialized agencies, including the World Bank and the IMF; and to focus one operational activities segment on the coordination of development activities related to gender, based on the system-wide five-year plan with a view to instituting guidelines and procedures for implementation of the Platform by the funds and programmes of the United Nations system.

The Secretary-General, as chairman of the **Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC)**, whose members include all heads of agencies and programmes system-wide, has responsibility for coordination of UN policy for the implementation of the Platform for Action. As requested in Beijing, the ACC established an inter-agency committee on women and gender equality in April 1996. This committee is an integral part of the arrangements being established under the aegis of ACC for the integrated and coordinated follow-up on a system-wide basis to recent UN conferences. The Secretary-General also designated an Assistant Secretary-General in his office to be his Special Adviser on Gender Issues to help ensure system-wide implementation of the Platform for Action in close cooperation with the Division for the Advancement of Women. The Special Adviser chairs, in this capacity, the **ACC Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality**, and closely interacts with the other inter-agency task forces (*for more on the inter-agency task forces, see annex I, page 99*).

## **UN Follow-up**

The Division for the Advancement of Women plays a coordinating role for the system-wide medium-term plan, 1996-2001 and serves as the secretariat for inter-agency coordination for the advancement of women. DAW, based in the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD), is the principal unit within the United Nations Secretariat dealing with issues relating to the advancement of women,



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## A range of commitments

**W**orld conferences provide a forum where UN Member States can adopt common approaches to shared problems. But a key function of the longer-term conference process is to highlight the progress of individual nations by reviewing their national plans, policies and commitments. Aware of such scrutiny — and the opportunity to draw attention to their efforts regarding women in particular — over one hundred countries promised specific actions in Beijing. These national commitments have become an intrinsic part of the follow-up, providing the UN, Governments, NGOs and society at large with benchmarks to gauge progress in the advancement of women. These commitments also serve as powerful advocacy tools that NGOs in each country can monitor and discuss with their country representatives. Some examples of government commitments — reflecting on the broad range of actions — made in Beijing follow:

### Mauritius

- Develop a holistic approach to the health and welfare of women and girls;
- Implement a country-wide breast and cervical cancer detection campaign;
- Enact a domestic violence act;
- Conduct a survey to identify impediments to the implementation of laws aimed at ensuring women's human rights

### India

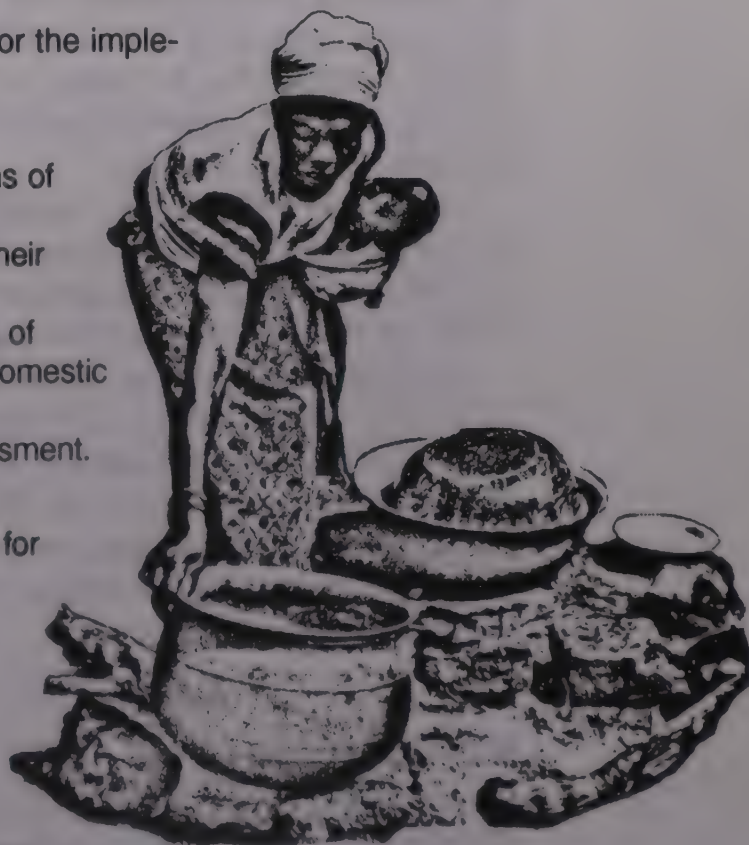
- Increase investment in education to 6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), with a major focus on women and girls;
- Set up a Commissioner for Women's Rights to act as a public defender of women's human rights;
- Institutionalize a national-level mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Platform for Action.

### Belize

- Take action to recognize unremunerated contributions of women to GDP;
- Implement women's right to full compensation for all their labour;
- Strengthen the campaign to increase the awareness of medical personnel and law enforcement officers to domestic violence;
- Develop laws to protect women against sexual harassment.

### United States

- Establish a White House Council on Women to plan for the effective implementation within the US of the Platform for Action, with full participation of NGOs;
- Launch a six-year, \$1.6 billion initiative to fight domestic violence and other crimes against women;
- Lead a comprehensive assault, through the Department of Health and Human Services, on threats to women's health and security, AIDS, smoking and breast cancer;
- Conduct a grass-roots campaign through the Department of Labor to improve conditions for women in the workplace, including working with employers to develop more equitable pay and promotion policies and helping employees balance the twin responsibilities of family and work;
- Have the Treasury Department take steps to promote access to financial credit for women.





while a focal point on women in the Secretariat works out of the Office of Human Resources Management to promote improvement in the status of women inside the Organization. DAW is overseeing efforts to enhance coordination and improve the substantive services and global policy-making provided to the **Commission on the Status of Women**, the **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** and other relevant bodies. The placement of the Division within DPCSD by the Secretary-General during the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the Secretariat was aimed at ensuring the integration of gender issues in policy formulation and coordination, including the servicing of the intergovernmental machinery.

The system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001, which reflects the United Nations system's proposals for action in the follow-up to Beijing, provides a basis for implementation by the United Nations system of the Platform for Action and related recommendations on gender issues formulated by other conferences. Also during this five-year period, implementation of the interrelated mandates of the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, in particular, requires the development of indicators on women and men with respect to the informal sector, decision-making, unremunerated work, poverty, the girl-child and violence against women. It also requires the compilation and dissemination of the database and methodologies underlying these indicators, as well as the provision of technical assistance at the national level in developing countries.

The operational role of UNIFEM in the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women is being consolidated. It continues to concentrate its work at the country level within the context of the United Nations Development Programme resident coordinator system. UNIFEM is focusing on women's economic and political empowerment, supporting women's organizations to increase leadership opportunities for decision-making and advocacy for women.

Likewise, INSTRAW is identifying those types of research and research methodologies to be given priority, strengthening national capacities to carry out women's studies and gender research, including that on the status of the girl-child, and developing networks of research institutions to do this work.

International financial institutions and regional development banks have been invited to examine their grants and lending and to allocate loans and grants to programmes for implementing the Platform for Action in developing countries, especially in Africa and the least developed countries. The IMF, the World Trade Organization and the World Bank, along with the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, assist countries with economies in transition to design and implement policies and programmes for the advancement of women.

### **National Level**

As stipulated by the World Conference, Governments are expected to take the lead in coordinating, monitoring and assessing national progress in the advancement of women. Governments, with financial and advisory assistance from regional and international organizations, are moving to improve the effectiveness of national machineries for the advancement of women at the highest political level, appropriate intra- and interministerial procedures and staffing, and other institutions with the mandate and capacity to broaden women's participation and integrate gender analysis into policies and programmes.



Many Governments are developing implementation plans for the Platform for Action. National planning is expected to be broad-based and participatory, comprehensive and time-bound, and should include proposals for allocating or reallocating resources for implementation. The UN resident coordinators at the country level in cooperation with other entities in the United Nations system have a key role in assisting Governments in these efforts.





## **Chapter 7**

### **Second UN Conference on Human Settlements**



<i>Conference:</i>	<b>Second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996</b>
<i>Informal name:</i>	<b>The City Summit</b>
<i>Host Government:</i>	<b>Turkey</b>
<i>Number of Governments participating:</i>	<b>171</b>
<i>Conference Secretary-General:</i>	<b>Dr. Wally N'Dow, Assistant Secretary-General, UN Centre for Human Settlements</b>
<i>Organizers:</i>	<b>Habitat II secretariat, based in the UN Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)</b>
<i>Principal themes:</i>	<b>Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world; adequate shelter for all</b>
<i>NGO presence:</i>	<b>NGOs participated as partners in Habitat II to an unprecedented degree; some 8,000 people from 2,400 organizations attended the NGO Forum parallel to the Conference</b>
<i>Resulting documents:</i>	<b>Habitat Agenda, Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements</b>
<i>Follow-up mechanisms:</i>	<b>UN Commission on Human Settlements; UN Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)</b>
<i>Previous conference:</i>	<b>UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat), Vancouver, 1976</b>



## The City Summit

**H**ABITAT II WAS AMONG THE LAST IN THE SERIES OF MAJOR UN CONFERENCES which have shaped the world's development agenda for the coming years. Its focus — human settlements — brought together the issues dealt with at earlier conferences as they relate to the escalating urbanization of today's world. The Conference produced a plan of action — **the Habitat Agenda** — that provides an effective tool for creating sustainable human settlements for the twenty-first century with regard to the environment, human rights, social development, women and population in the specific context of urbanization. As such, it offers a positive vision of sustainable human settlements — where all have adequate shelter, a healthy and safe environment, basic services and productive and freely chosen employment.

Habitat II underscored the clear and close linkage between human settlements and poverty, environmental conditions and lack of access to land and secure tenure. It recognized that inadequate living conditions are a primary cause of social conflict, degradation of personal safety and violent disruptions of civil society. It called on the international community to ensure that these linkages are made in international policies and actions. It also made clear the importance at the local and national level to ensure an integrated approach to human settlements by means of partnership among national and local governments, other public institutions, the private sector, communities and non-governmental organizations.

This Conference was notable in its strong emphasis on two particular areas: alliance-building and innovative ideas. Referred to as the conference of partnerships, Habitat II was the first UN conference officially to give a platform to representatives of civil society. While most of the recent world conferences gave NGOs unprecedented access to the conference process, Habitat II made the decision to allow local authorities, NGOs and other groups to participate in the deliberations as full partners, although without the right to vote.

Parallel to the conference committee that conducted negotiations among national Governments, a “partnership committee” — including NGOs and local authorities — met and forwarded recommendations for inclusion in the Habitat Agenda. In fact, this committee received reports from over 500 mayors and key municipal leaders, constituted as the World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities. It also heard from NGOs grouped in forums, which included the World Business Forum, the Foundations Forum, the Academies of Science and Engineering Forum, the Professionals and Researchers Forum, the Parliamentarians Forum, the Labour Unions Forum and the Forum on Human Solidarity.

Habitat II also highlighted the importance of exchanging information on successful techniques for resolving human settlements problems by showcasing “best practices” for improving the living environment — initiatives and models of innovative thinking taken by local authorities and grass-roots organizations that have proved effective in solving housing and community problems.



## **Background**

The first UN Conference on Human Settlements (Vancouver, 1976) had sought to develop strategies to mitigate the negative effects of rapid urbanization. Twenty years later, close to half the world population (2.4 billion out of 5.7 billion) live in cities, with that number expected to double within 30 years. The UN Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) was established in 1978 with headquarters in Nairobi. It serves as the focal point for human settlements development within the UN system, serves as the Secretariat of the Commission on Human Settlements and served as the secretariat for Habitat II. In 1988, the General Assembly adopted the **Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000**, which emphasizes an “enabling” approach whereby Governments provide not shelter itself, but a facilitating legal, institutional and regulatory environment to encourage people to provide and improve upon their own shelter. The Strategy provides the basis for the Centre’s programme of work to the year 2000, and its accomplishments were the subject of review at Habitat II. At least 600 million people live in health-threatening housing conditions. Recognition of the urgency of the problem prompted delegates at the 1992 Earth Summit (UN Conference on Environment and Development) to request the convening of a second human settlements conference, which the General Assembly authorized later that year.

## **The Habitat II Agreements**

**The Istanbul Declaration** — In the 15-paragraph Declaration, Governments agreed to address:

- *Unsustainable consumption and production patterns, particularly in industrialized countries;*
- *Unsustainable population changes;*
- *Homelessness;*
- *Unemployment;*
- *Lack of basic infrastructure and services;*
- *Growing insecurity and violence;*
- *Increased vulnerability to disasters.*

While concerned by the continuing deterioration of human settlements in most parts of the world, Governments recognized cities and towns as centres of civilization, generating economic development and social, cultural, spiritual and scientific advancement. Governments stressed the need to intensify cooperation to improve living conditions throughout the world. They acknowledged that advancing the goals of the Agenda required concerted actions on financing of development, external debt, international trade and transfer of technology. They committed themselves to intensifying efforts to eradicate poverty and discrimination and to provide for such basic needs as adequate shelter, as well as to ensure the equal participation of women and men in all spheres of life.

Regarding the controversial commitment to adequate shelter for all, the Conference reached consensus on the issue of the right to adequate housing (see *Right to housing, page 69*), recognizing the fundamental obligation of Governments to enable people to obtain shelter and to protect and improve dwellings and neighbourhoods. They agreed to seek the participation of their public, private and non-governmental partners to ensure legal security of tenure, protection from discrimination and equal access to adequate housing. They called for urban policies that expand the supply of affordable



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## Right to housing

In a step pressed by the UN Commissioner for Human Rights (a post created as the result of the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993) and many NGOs, Habitat II agreed to recognize the right to adequate housing as a universal human right — one of the most contentious issues to arise during the preparatory negotiations for Habitat II. This is seen as a major impetus in the battle against homelessness. The right to housing as understood at Habitat II does not mean simply the right to a roof over one's head. It also implies access to all the systems considered essential to a healthy life, particularly urban life, including access to safe water and sanitation, waste disposal, schools, transportation and other infrastructural necessities of life. In recent years, the right to housing had been built into several legally binding human rights instruments to ensure the right of all persons to housing, to eliminate racial and gender discrimination in housing and to protect the rights of women, children, workers and refugees. This specific reference gives it the heightened attention many delegations felt it needed.

The consensus that emerged was a compromise between those delegations that viewed housing as falling within the broader right to an adequate standard of living and those that felt that housing should be a distinct and independent right. In

the final Conference document, the "right to adequate housing" is reaffirmed, but is qualified by references to

its "progressive realization" and to its being one element of the right to an adequate standard of living.

Governments are obliged by the document to enable people to obtain shelter, but are not held responsible for directly providing shelter to all citizens.



housing by enabling markets to perform efficiently in a socially and environmentally responsible way. Governments agreed to strengthen local authorities' financial and institutional capacities to implement the Agenda. As the Conference's Secretary-General, Wally N'Dow, put it, "the resources exist to put a roof over the head and bring safe water and sanitation, for less than \$100 per person, to every man, woman and child on this planet".

**The Habitat Agenda** — The final document of the Conference, the Habitat Agenda, is intended as a global call to action at all levels and a guide towards achieving sustainable development of the world's cities, towns and villages into the first two decades of the next century. The Agenda contains a statement of goals and principles, a set of commitments to be undertaken by Governments, and final strategies for implementing the global plan of action.

**The goals and principles include:**

- *Poverty eradication in the context of sustainable development;*
- *The need to strengthen the family as the basic unit of society;*
- *Citizens' rights and responsibilities;*
- *Partnerships among all countries and among all sectors within countries;*
- *Solidarity with disadvantaged and vulnerable groups;*
- *Increased financial resources;*
- *Health care — including reproductive health care and services to improve the quality of life.*

**The six commitments cover:**

- *Adequate shelter for all;*
- *Sustainable human settlements;*
- *Participation and gender equality;*
- *Financing human settlements;*
- *International cooperation;*
- *Assessing progress.*

**The strategies for implementing the plan of action elaborate on:**

- *Action to be taken to achieve adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world;*
- *Ways to promote efficient land markets and sustainable land use;*
- *Ways to mobilize financing and facilitating access to land and security of tenure;*
- *Actions that Governments can take to integrate shelter policies with macro-economic, social and environmental policies;*
- *Actions to improve shelter delivery systems.*



The strategies emphasize that individuals, families and communities must be enabled to improve their housing. Governments should promote better housing by prohibiting discrimination and ensuring legal security of tenure and equal access to land. Markets should be enabled to function efficiently as well.

### **UN Follow-up**

The Conference gave impetus to greater involvement of civil society and private business in urban decision-making and to the sharing of national Governments' power and resources with local authorities. It also gave a central role to the UN in monitoring progress on implementation.

The General Assembly is considering implementation of the outcome of Habitat II at its fifty-first session. The Assembly will again take up the issue of human settlements in June 1997, when it holds a special session to review implementation of Agenda 21 (see page 22), the plan of action adopted at the Earth Summit, in which human settlements are a central element.

For its part, the Economic and Social Council will coordinate implementation of the plan of action throughout the United Nations system. The Council is also expected to review the plan's implementation at its 1997 session.

At the Conference, UN agencies pledged further commitment to human settlements and recognized the obligation to ensure that the results of Habitat II are translated into action in cities, towns and villages. Central to this work is promoting South-South and North-South cooperation in dealing with urban management and human settlements development with an emphasis on poverty alleviation. The World Bank announced that funds earmarked for urban programmes amount to \$15 billion for the next five years — a tripling of the Bank's effort in this sector.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced that it would contribute \$15 million to the Urban Management Programme, a joint initiative of UNDP, the World Bank and the UN Centre for Human Settlements, which acts as the programme's executing agency. The programme, supported by the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland, provides technical assistance to developing country cities and towns to find ways to alleviate poverty and to strengthen cooperation with local enterprises, NGOs and other groups. It is the world's largest multi-donor technical assistance programme in the area of urban development.

UNDP and donor countries — the Netherlands, New Zealand and Switzerland — also launched a new \$10 million facility to promote private investment in urban areas. The funds will be used for 50 projects in developing country cities over a five-year period. These are expected to generate \$1 billion in investments in energy, water and waste management. The new facility is part of the Public-Private Partnership for the Urban Environment — an initiative by UNDP and the donor community to promote cooperation between the city governments and the private sector and help ensure that these collaborations are environmentally sustainable.





## **Chapter 8**

### **World Food Summit**



<i>Conference:</i>	<b>World Food Summit Rome, 13-17 November 1996</b>
<i>Informal name:</i>	<b>The Food Summit</b>
<i>Host Government:</i>	<b>Italy</b>
<i>Number of Governments participating:</i>	<b>186 Governments, including 41 presidents, 15 vice presidents and 41 prime ministers</b>
<i>Conference Secretary-General:</i>	<b>Ms. Kay Killingsworth, former Director, Office of External Relations, FAO</b>
<i>Organizers:</i>	<b>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</b>
<i>Principal themes:</i>	<b>To ensure food security for all</b>
<i>NGO presence:</i>	<b>The conference was well attended by representatives of non-governmental organizations. There was a parallel international forum for youth which assembled 500 young participants from 127 countries, and other parallel meetings held by parliamentarians, family farmers' associations and the private sector</b>
<i>Resulting documents:</i>	<b>Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action</b>
<i>Follow-up mechanisms:</i>	<b>ECOSOC, the General Assembly and FAO</b>
<i>Previous conferences:</i>	<b>World Food Conference, Rome 1974; International Conference on Nutrition, Rome, 1992, convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) and FAO</b>



# The Food Summit

**O**N 17 NOVEMBER 1996, THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action, which outline ways to achieve universal food security. The Summit was the first-ever global gathering of heads of State and Government to address the problems of hunger and malnutrition, coming at a time of growing international concern over slowing growth in global food production and expanding populations. Its purpose was to give new impetus to the fight for food security by focusing the attention of policy and decision makers in the public and private sectors and the general public on the food issues. The assembled leaders renewed their commitment to ensure that “all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”. The Declaration and Plan of Action give Governments the prime responsibility for achieving food security and outline effective policies and strategies to make sustainable progress towards the elimination of hunger and malnutrition.

The Summit adopted as a concrete goal to reduce by half by 2015 the current number of undernourished persons in the developing countries. The Plan of Action calls for increased food production to meet the needs of a growing world population, and policies to enable people to either grow or purchase the food they need. It also includes provisions for ensuring food availability in times of humanitarian emergencies. The Summit stressed the importance of involving all concerned government ministries, as well as the non-governmental and private sectors and the academic and research communities.

The Plan of Action contains seven commitments on the part of Governments, which are expected to lead to significant reductions in chronic hunger. The commitments cover seven specific areas:

- *The general conditions for economic and social progress conducive to food security;*
- *Poverty eradication and access to adequate food;*
- *Sustainable increases in food production;*
- *The contribution of trade to food security;*
- *Preparedness, prevention and response to food emergencies;*
- *Optimal investment in human resources, sustainable production capacity and rural development;*
- *Cooperation in implementing and monitoring the Plan of Action.*

## Background

It was at the World Food Conference in 1974, which took place at a time when world food reserves had dwindled to alarmingly low levels, that the concept of food security first acquired a place in the international legal order. At that Conference, Governments joined in proclaiming that “every man, woman and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop their physical and mental facul-



ties". The Conference set as its goal the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition within a decade. For many reasons, among them failures in policy-making and funding, that goal still has not been met. There has been remarkable progress in some countries, and chronic undernutrition is slowly falling in many developing countries. The 5.8 billion people in the world today have 15 per cent more food per capita than the population of four billion had 20 years ago. FAO estimates that unless progress is accelerated there could still be some 680 million hungry people in the world by 2010, more than 250 million of them in sub-Saharan Africa. In theory the world produces enough food to feed everyone; it is the poorest sectors of societies that do not have the resources to secure their share.

World food production, FAO estimates, will have to increase by more than 75 per cent over the next 30 years to ensure adequate food supplies for a world population expected to reach 8.3 billion by the year 2025.

Prompted by deep concern over widespread food insecurity, the Director-General of FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf, obtained approval from the FAO Conference, the organization's governing body, to convene a World Food Summit of heads of State at the organization's headquarters in Rome. In preparation for the Summit, FAO worked with the World Bank, regional development banks, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other UN organizations to produce a series of technical papers dealing with a range of issues including food production and population growth, environmental impact, nutrition, international trade and lessons learned from the green revolution. It also worked closely with NGOs and the private sector.

### **Follow-up**

The World Food Summit did not call for the creation of new structures or financing mechanisms. Participating countries and their leaders agreed to fulfil their commitments to food security according to their respective possibilities. FAO will act as a catalyst in mobilizing the international community to provide the necessary technical assistance and support to developing countries in their effort to implement the Summit Plan of Action. FAO's Committee on World Food Security is the only intergovernmental body in the UN system responsible exclusively for monitoring, evaluating and consulting on the international food security situation. It analyses food needs, assesses availability and monitors and disseminates information on stock levels. It also recommends policies to ensure adequate cereal supplies for food security. FAO also oversees an extensive network of monitoring systems and satellite surveillance that monitor current and prospective food supply/demand situations.

At the UN interagency level, follow-up will be facilitated through the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), as is the case with the other major conferences. Through the ACC task forces, UN system follow-up will focus on the field-level activities through the UN resident coordinators, in consultation with Governments and in coordination with international financial institutions. ACC specifies that the FAO Committee on Food Security undertake, by 1996, a major assessment of the implementation of the Plan of Action and a mid-term review for achieving the target of reducing the number of undernourished persons by half of their present level by no later than 2015.



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## **Food security, a consistent theme**

**I**n many ways, the World Food Summit addressed concerns regarding food security that were raised in specific contexts of other recent world conferences. In 1992, at Rio, the Conference on Environment and Development emphasized the need to ensure food security at all levels, within the framework of sustainable development, as defined in Agenda 21. In December of the same year, the Joint FAO/WHO International Conference on Nutrition declared that "hunger and malnutrition are unacceptable in a world that has both the knowledge and the resources to end this human catastrophe", and recognized "that access to nutritionally adequate and safe food is a right of each individual". The following year, the World Conference on Human Rights, meeting in Vienna, reaffirmed the need to ensure that everyone enjoyed a genuine right to food. In 1994, the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo emphasized the linkage between population growth and food production and the need to respond globally to populations' ever-growing food needs. The World Summit for Social Development, meeting in Copenhagen in March 1995, also made a strong commitment to the campaign against hunger by making it a key element of poverty eradication. The Fourth World Conference on Women, in Beijing, for its part, rightly drew the attention of the international community to the fundamental role played by women in food production, particularly in rural areas, recalling that women produce over 55 per cent of the world's food and over 80 per cent of Africa's food. The Habitat II Conference in Istanbul, in June 1996, showed the importance of establishing healthy linkages between rural and urban areas and emphasized the role of cities in ensuring proper food distribution and drinking-water supply.

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# Other Major Conferences

## Chapter 9

United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable  
Development of Small Island Developing States



<i>Conference:</i>	<b>Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, 25 April–6 May 1994</b>
<i>Informal name:</i>	<b>The Small Islands Conference</b>
<i>Host Government:</i>	<b>Barbados</b>
<i>Number of Governments participating:</i>	<b>111 Governments, with 14 heads of State or Government</b>
<i>President of the Conference:</i>	<b>Mr. Erskine Sandiford, Prime Minister of Barbados</b>
<i>Organizers:</i>	<b>The Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development with the cooperation of the Government of Barbados</b>
<i>Principal themes:</i>	<b>15 key areas —</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change and sea-level rise</li> <li>• Natural and environmental disasters</li> <li>• Waste management</li> <li>• Coastal and marine resources</li> <li>• Fresh water</li> <li>• Land resources</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Tourism</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• National institutions</li> <li>• Regional institutions and technical cooperation</li> <li>• Transport and communications</li> <li>• Science and technology</li> <li>• Human resource development</li> <li>• Implementation, monitoring and review</li> </ul>
<i>NGO presence:</i>	<b>1,200 NGO representatives attended the NGO Forum and 87 NGOs attended the official meeting</b>
<i>Resulting documents:</i>	<b>Barbados Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States</b>
<i>Follow-up mechanisms:</i>	<b>Commission on Sustainable Development — there will be a mid-term review in 1997 and an overall review in 1999</b>



# The Small Islands Conference

**A**T THE CONCLUSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 111 Governments adopted the Barbados Declaration and Programme of Action. These agreements elaborate principles and set out strategies for development that will protect the fragile environments of small island States. They build on the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, the blueprint for global sustainable development that was approved at the Earth Summit — the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

The Barbados Conference was called for by the UN General Assembly in December 1992 on the recommendation of the Earth Summit, which convened in Rio de Janeiro earlier that year. It was seen as the first test of the global partnership formed at the Summit, by which rich and poor countries agreed to work together for sustainable development — “development that meets without compromising the needs of future generations”.

Islands have long conjured up images of “paradise”, but increasingly their azure lagoons, coral reefs and lush rainforests are plagued by signs of stress. As island societies strive to raise living standards for growing numbers of people and struggle to survive in a complex global economy, they often sacrifice the fragile ecosystems which are among their most valuable assets. International assistance is needed to help islands reverse this trend.

## Major Institutional Initiatives

Key proposals in the Programme of Action call for:

- *National and regional disaster emergency funds to assist small islands in recovering from natural disasters and to provide hard-to-obtain insurance coverage. Funds should come from both the public and private sectors;*
- *Regional Sustainable Development Centres to provide research and training in environmentally sound technologies suitable for small islands. Funds are to be provided by small island Governments and international sources;*
- *A Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme (SIDS/TAP) to pool indigenous expertise and make it available where relevant throughout small island States;*
- *A Small Island Developing States Information Network (SIDS/NET) to facilitate information exchange on various aspects of sustainable development relating to small islands. The UN Development Programme submitted feasibility studies on both SIDS/NET and SIDS/TAP to the UN General Assembly in November 1994.*



## **Global Climate Change and Rising Sea Levels**

Fearing the impact of changing global climate patterns and the threat of rising sea levels, the Conference requested that provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change be considered "inadequate" and further action be taken to reduce levels of global warming emissions. The Programme of Action also calls for the UN to assist small islands in monitoring sea-level rise.

**Toxic and Hazardous Wastes.** States agreed that action should be taken to prevent the dumping of toxic and hazardous wastes in the seas of small islands. They also agreed to recognize the rights of small islands to prohibit the transboundary movement of hazardous and radioactive wastes and materials under the jurisdiction consistent with international law. Also, small islands should refrain from importing such wastes for profit. No agreement was reached as to who should "bear the burden of the impact" if a ship carrying toxic and hazardous wastes, chemicals or radioactive materials through small island seas were to have an accident.

**Coastal and Marine Resources.** Recommendations include assisting small islands in managing coastal areas and exclusive economic zones (EEZs). Since the 200-mile offshore EEZs of small islands total some 30 million sq. km. of ocean — one sixth of the earth's surface — proper management would have global benefits and help stem the decline of fish supplies worldwide. Cooperative agreements between small islands and foreign fishing groups are encouraged.

**Freshwater and Land Resources.** The need to safeguard watershed areas and other sources of groundwater is highlighted. Limited quantities of fresh water are available on small islands. Proposals focus on the need for land management plans which dovetail with existing plans and policies. Appropriate systems of land tenure are encouraged.

**Energy.** The Programme emphasizes energy conservation and development of renewable energy sources to reduce the dependence of small islands on imported fossil fuels.

**Tourism.** The Programme views tourism as an opportunity for economic development in small islands which must be integrated with environmental and cultural concerns.

## **Transport and communications**

The Programme stresses the crucial role of transport and communications in linking small islands with the outside world and with each other, and high costs of air and sea transport and telecommunications infrastructures to small islands. Proposals include the need for greater regional cooperation supported by financial and technical resources by the international community.

## **Financing and follow-up**

Many islands, represented by the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), expressed disappointment at the lack of specific financial commitments made by donor countries at the Conference. Other island leaders, however, noted that the Conference had strengthened ties among the 41 AOSIS members and focused world attention on their special vulnerabilities and problems.

Although no estimate is given for the financial resources needed to implement the Programme of Action, its implementation is predicted on a tripartite partnership at the national, regional and international levels.

The Programme of Action for Small Islands stipulates that most funding is to come from each country's own public and private sectors, to be supplemented by the interna-



tional community — over and above existing levels of official development assistance. The Programme also emphasizes that existing resources should be used more efficiently and effectively. International assistance is regarded as essential if small islands are to adopt sustainable practices.

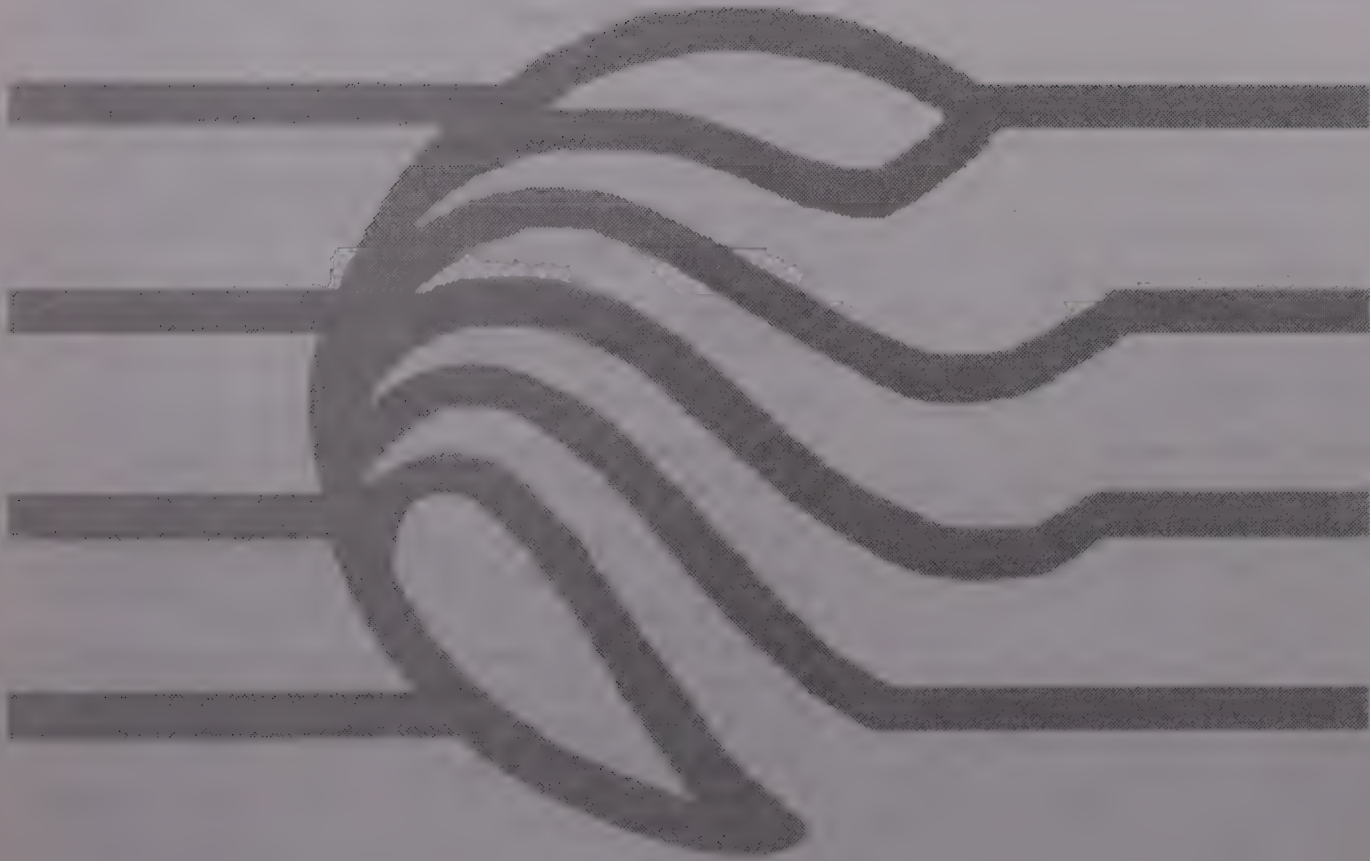
The Conference requested that the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, which was set up following the Earth Summit to monitor the Rio agreements and which meets annually, also review implementation of the Programme of Action for the Global Conference. As called for in the Programme of Action, a unit has been established in the UN Secretariat to monitor and coordinate follow-up to the Conference. Most other organizations have also identified focal points to ensure effective implementation of the Programme of Action.





**Chapter 10**

World Conference on  
Natural Disaster Reduction



<i>Conference:</i>	<b>World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction Yokohama, 23-27 May 1994</b>
<i>Informal name:</i>	<b>The Yokohama Conference</b>
<i>Host Government:</i>	<b>Japan</b>
<i>Number of Governments participating:</i>	<b>149</b>
<i>Secretary-General of the Conference:</i>	<b>Dr. Olavi Elo, Director, International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction</b>
<i>President of the Conference:</i>	<b>Dr. Nabutoshi Akao, Ambassador of Japan for Global Environmental Affairs and International Trade</b>
<i>Organizers:</i>	<b>The secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR 1990-2000) within the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs, in cooperation with the Government of Japan</b>
<i>Principal themes:</i>	<b>Strategies for disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and relief</b>
<i>NGO presence:</i>	<b>36 non-governmental organizations</b>
<i>Resulting document:</i>	<b>The Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World</b>
<i>Follow-up mechanisms:</i>	<b>Mid-term review of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly; International Framework of Action for the IDNDR, including the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction; United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs</b>



# The Yokohama Conference

**T**HE YOKOHAMA CONFERENCE CONVENED GOVERNMENTS AND VARIOUS national, regional and international bodies to discuss concrete measures to reduce the rising toll of natural disasters and how to generate the political will to create sustainable, long-term approaches to disaster reduction. The Conference served as a mid-decade review of what the scientific and technical community, national Governments, regional bodies and international organizations have done within the context of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) to prevent, mitigate or prepare for disasters. The World Conference was also an important milestone in IDNDR's global awareness-building process.

In the Yokohama Declaration, participants pledged to confront the human losses and damage caused by disasters by acting in a new spirit of partnership to build a safer world, based on common interest, and shared responsibility to save human lives and protect human and natural resources, the ecosystem and cultural heritage. They reaffirmed their commitment to transform, through national, regional and international efforts, the Decade's action plan into a strategy for disaster reduction centred on the objectives of saving lives and protecting property. The Strategy calls for an accelerated implementation of a Plan of Action based on several principles, including the development of a culture of prevention, self-reliance, education and training, research and the active participation of vulnerable communities, among others.

The participants agreed to develop and strengthen national capacities and national legislation for natural and other disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness, including the mobilization of non-governmental organizations and participation of local communities.

## Multifaceted Approach

Natural disasters continue to strike and increase in magnitude, complexity, frequency and economic impact. While the natural phenomena causing disasters are in most cases beyond human control, vulnerability to them is generally a result of human activity. Therefore, society must recognize and strengthen traditional methods of coping with disasters and explore new ways to live with such risk, and take urgent actions to prevent as well as to reduce the effects of such disasters. The capacities to do so are available.

Disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and relief are four elements which contribute to and gain from the implementation of sustainable development policies. Responding to disasters after they have occurred, the Conference recognized, is not sufficient, as it yields only temporary results, and at a very high cost. Prevention contributes to lasting improvement in safety and is essential to integrated disaster management. Regional and international cooperation will significantly enhance the ability of Governments to achieve real progress in mitigating disasters through the transfer of technology and the sharing of information and joint disaster-prevention and -mitigation activities.

Such cooperation is especially important for the least developed countries, small island developing States and land-locked countries, as well as those affected by deserti-



fication and drought, which, because they are the least equipped to mitigate the impact of disasters, are the most vulnerable countries.

Similarly, in all countries it is the poor and socially disadvantaged groups that suffer most from natural disasters. Large-scale urban concentrations are particularly fragile because of their complexity and the concentration of population and infrastructures in limited areas.

National and regional cooperation is vital in building the global “culture of prevention” cited in the Yokohama Strategy. Neighbouring countries with similar risks need forums and institutions to exchange experiences. Regional processes to adopt and implement the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action are critical to its success.

The international community has a responsibility to support countries so that they develop the capacity to cope with disasters. International bodies — especially those with influence on major sectors of society such as science, education, health, civil protection, etc. — are called upon to adopt the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action and to encourage their counterparts in countries and regions to adopt and implement it as well.

The implementation of the **Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World** is seen as part of the international community’s coordinated approach taken to the follow-up to all recent major United Nations conferences and summit meetings and to the implementation of their respective plans of action.

### **UN Partners**

To help upgrade the level of disaster preparedness, many parts of the United Nations system are providing expertise in the social, health and economic sectors. These UN offices can act as primary agents for the exchange of information and technical knowledge to upgrade the level of disaster preparedness. The United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) is the focal point of the UN system for ensuring the timely, coherent and coordinated response of the international community to disasters and emergencies. DHA also promotes prevention, preparedness and mitigation aimed at reducing the vulnerability of those affected by such events. When disaster strikes, DHA helps assess the damage and evaluate emergency needs, mobilizes aid from the international community and coordinates the distribution of donations and relief activities. It also arranges technical assistance for disaster preparedness and prevention and promotes the study, control and prediction of natural disasters.

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) provides funds and expertise for development projects which help reduce the damage caused by the effects of natural disasters. The World Health Organization plays a pivotal role in stemming epidemics, while the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) fights agricultural disasters such as locust infestations. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) provides meteorological and hydrological information and services. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) coordinates activities for the protection of the environment, whereas the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is engaged in research in hydrology and geology.

### **Follow-up Action**

Both the mid-term assessment and direction for the future are summed up in the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action, which address actions to achieve targets within the framework of the overall programme for the Decade, as specified by the IDNDR Scientific and Technical Committee and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.



The World Conference formulated the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World centred on the objective of saving human lives and protecting property. The Strategy calls for an accelerated implementation of a Plan of Action to be developed from the following points:

- *In the second half of the Decade, emphasis given to programmes that promote community-based approaches to vulnerability reduction;*
- *Adoption of integrated policies for prevention of, preparedness for, and response to natural disasters and other disaster situations including environmental and technological hazards;*
- *Improved coordination and cooperation among ongoing national, regional and international disaster research activities;*
- *The need for adequate coordination of international disaster-reduction activities and strengthening of the mechanisms established for this purpose to relate, in particular, to the formulation of development projects which provide assistance for disaster reduction and their evaluation;*
- *Establishment or improvement, as a priority, of national, regional and international warning systems and more effective dissemination of warnings;*
- *Strengthening of effective coordination of international disaster management, in particular by the United Nations system, as paramount for an integrated approach to disaster reduction;*
- *Comprehensive national assessments of risks from natural hazards, taken into account in development plans, in place in all countries by the year 2000, as part of their sustainable development plans;*
- *Mitigation plans at national and/or local levels, involving long-term prevention and preparedness and community awareness;*
- *Ready access to global, regional, national and local warning systems and broad dissemination of warnings.*

The Conference requested the Secretary-General to submit an annual report to the General Assembly, based on information provided by Governments and regional and international organizations, including the multilateral financial institutions and the regional development banks, the United Nations system and the non-governmental organizations community, on progress made in the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy.

Both the mid-term assessment and direction for the future are summed up in the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World. They addressed actions to achieve targets within the framework of the overall programme for the Decade, as specified by the IDNDR Scientific and Technical Committee and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

The IDNDR works through IDNDR National Committees and Focal Points which exist in 138 countries. The IDNDR Secretariat, located in Geneva, is part of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs. The IDNDR Scientific and Technical Committee is an advisory body with experts in economics, social science, engineering, public health, industry, geology, meteorology etc. A group of well-known personalities, the Special High-Level Council, promotes global awareness of disaster reduction. A UN inter-agency group works regularly with the IDNDR Secretariat, as well as a contact group of Geneva-based diplomatic missions.

IDNDR publishes a quarterly magazine, *STOP Disasters*, and conducts a promotional campaign on the second Wednesday of each October, designated as the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction.





## **Chapter 11**

Ninth United Nations Congress on the  
Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

*stop crime*

<i>Conference:</i>	<b>The Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders Cairo, 29 April–8 May 1995</b>
<i>Informal name:</i>	<b>The Crime Congress</b>
<i>Host Government:</i>	<b>Egypt</b>
<i>Number of Governments participating:</i>	<b>138 countries, with a total of 1,732 participants. 15 intergovernmental and 22 UN agencies and organizations were represented</b>
<i>President of the Conference:</i>	<b>Dr. Farouk Seif El-Naser, Minister of Justice of Egypt</b>
<i>Organizers:</i>	<b>Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice with the assistance of the Crime Division at the UN Office at Vienna</b>
<i>Principal themes:</i>	<b>The four substantive topics were:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>International cooperation and practical technical assistance for strengthening the rule of law through promotion of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme;</b></li> <li>• <b>Cooperative action against transnational and organized crime and the role of criminal law in the protection of the environment</b></li> <li>• <b>Management and improvement of police and other law enforcement agencies, prosecution courts and corrections and the role of lawyers;</b></li> <li>• <b>Crime prevention strategies, in particular as related to crime in urban areas and juvenile and violent criminality, including the question of victims: assessment and new perspectives</b></li> </ul>
<i>NGO presence:</i>	<b>48 organizations</b>
<i>Resulting document:</i>	<b>Report of the Ninth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (A/CONF.169/16)</b>
<i>Follow-up mechanisms:</i>	<b>Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly</b>
<i>Previous conferences:</i>	<b>Eight previous conferences have been held, once every five years. The work of this Congress was facilitated by two major meetings in 1994: the International Conference on Preventing and Controlling Money Laundering and the Proceeds of Crime, held in Courmayeur, Italy, and the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime held in Naples, Italy</b>



## The Crime Congress

**L**IKE EARLIER CONGRESSES, THE NINTH CRIME CONGRESS BROUGHT together representatives of the world's Governments, non-governmental organizations, criminal justice professionals and scholars to discuss common problems and seek viable solutions to crime. Their recommendations have far-reaching impact on legislative and policy-making bodies of the United Nations and of national and local governments.

The Congress endorsed a wide array of measures to combat transnational crime, reflecting the growing determination of Governments and experts to cooperate to stem the rapid spread of international criminal syndicates, especially in vulnerable countries where economies are in crisis or going through a period of transition.

An early focus of the Congress was on a draft resolution calling attention to links between terrorism and organized crime and calling for concerted international action to combat both. Several delegations and experts pointed out that condemning both kinds of organizations should not be taken to mean that terrorist organizations are simply an adjunct to crime syndicates. Such an identification might lead to injustices against organizations or popular causes incorrectly labeled as "terrorist". The final resolution adopted by the Congress condemned terrorist acts and recommended to the Commission that it examine further links between these acts and organized transnational crime.

In another action, the Congress asked that the views of States be solicited on the possible elaboration of new international instruments — such as a convention — against organized transnational crime. Such a treaty, the resolution suggested, might cover arrangements for international cooperation at the investigative, prosecutorial and judicial levels and for prevention and control of money laundering. A similar measure was adopted at the World Ministerial Conference on Transnational Crime, held in Naples, Italy, in 1994.

An omnibus resolution asked States to facilitate transnational criminal investigations through extradition, provision of relevant records, exchange of evidence, and cooperation in locating persons, serving subpoenas and carrying out inspections and seizures. It also called for stricter laws on registration of imported motor vehicles, as a means to combat the large-scale trafficking in stolen cars.

In response to widespread concern about the involvement of organized crime in smuggling and selling weapons, a resolution was adopted calling for urgent measures to restrict international traffic in firearms and urging States to regulate more closely domestic availability.

A strongly worded resolution urged States to adopt laws against acts of violence that may victimize women and sanctions against rape, domestic violence, sexual abuse and all practices harmful to females, including the traditional practice in some societies of genital mutilation. Legal measures prohibiting harassment, intimidation or threats against women or their families, and laws regulating the acquisition and storage of firearms in the home, are also recommended by the same resolution of the Congress. States are asked to take special account of women's vulnerability to violence — including murder, torture, systematic rape and sexual slavery — in situations of armed conflict.



The Congress organized several workshops, namely extradition and international cooperation, exchange of national experiences and implementation of relevant principles in national legislation; mass media and crime prevention; urban policy and crime prevention; prevention of violent crime; environmental protection at the national and international levels: potentials and limits of criminal justice; and international cooperation and assistance in the management of the criminal justice system: computerization of criminal justice operations and the development, analysis and policy use of criminal justice information.

A number of technical assistance and advisory projects accordingly are being formulated with a view to obtaining support from donor countries, the Department for Development Support and Management Services of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and other internationally oriented agencies.

A source of technical support at the national and regional levels that has not reached its full potential is the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. To date, the number of Governments contributing to the Fund does not exceed 7 per cent of the membership of the United Nations. Recognizing that the Fund could be an invaluable international resource, the Crime Congresses as well as the General Assembly have repeatedly invited Governments to make financial contributions.

The Congress also made recommendations on international cooperation and practical assistance for strengthening the rule of law; practical implementation of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners; criminal justice management; children as victims and perpetrators of crime; criminal justice and police systems; and crime prevention strategies, in particular as related to crime in urban areas and juvenile and violent criminality, including the question of victims.

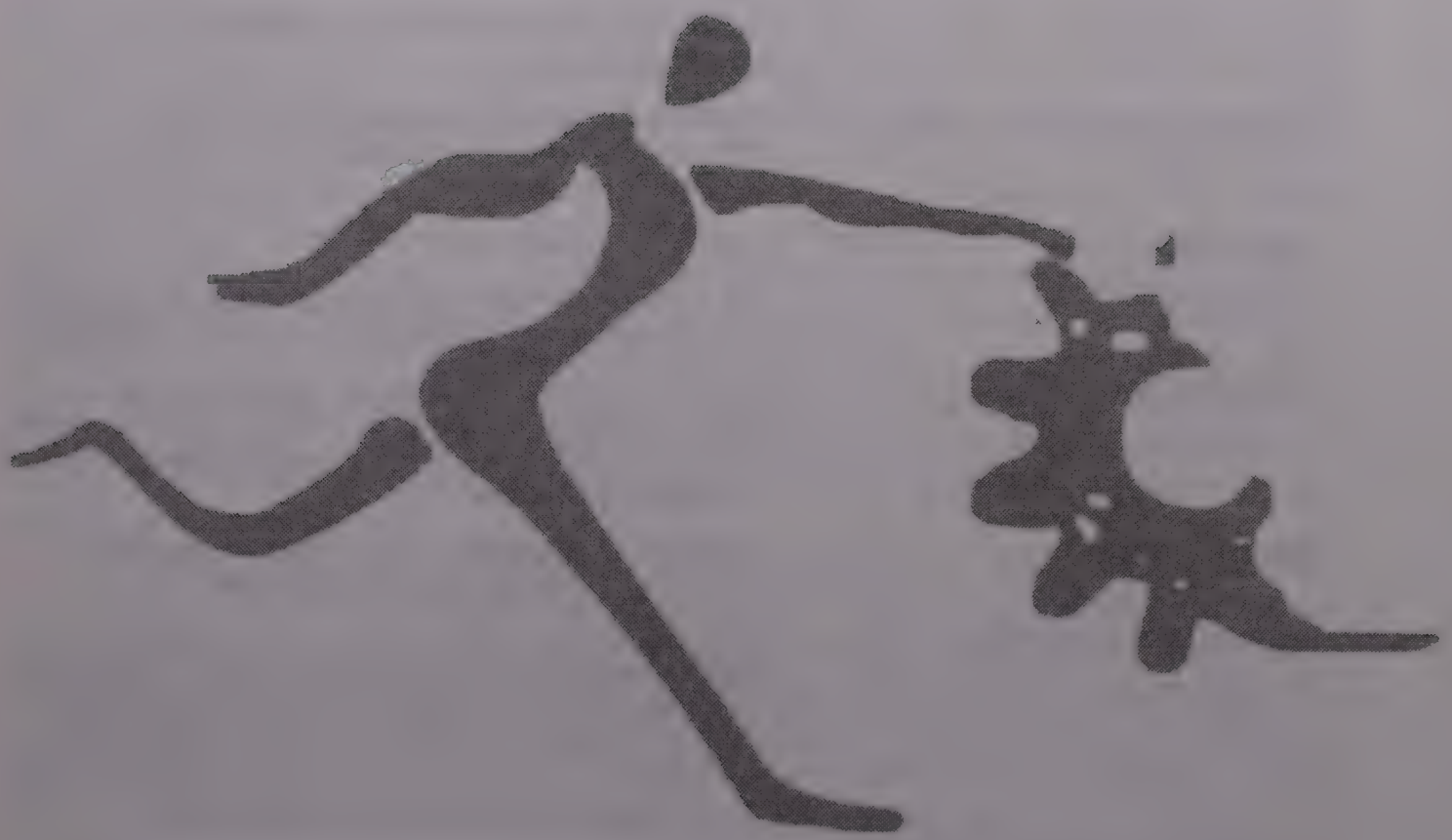
### **UN Follow-up**

Ongoing international cooperation is frequently a by-product of United Nations assistance programmes. Many experts sent on assignments by the United Nations are on leave from high government posts, granted by their Governments for that purpose. Upon return, experts frequently spark within their own Governments a special interest in follow-up to their work, through the provision of fellowships for further training or the provision of equipment or training materials. Assistance between countries and the interchange of criminal justice personnel have also been motivated by the activities of the regional and interregional institutes of the United Nations and the spirit of intra-national cooperation that arises from seminars with participants from many nations.



## Chapter 12

### United Nations Conference on Trade and Development



<i>Conference:</i>	<b>Ninth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Midrand, 27 April–11 May 1996</b>
<i>Informal name:</i>	<b>UNCTAD IX</b>
<i>Host Government:</i>	<b>South Africa</b>
<i>Number of Governments participating:</i>	<b>Over 120, with five heads of State. The meeting was held at the ministerial level</b>
<i>President of the Conference:</i>	<b>Alec Irwin, Minister of Trade and Industry of South Africa</b>
<i>Conference Secretary-General:</i>	<b>Rubens Ricupero, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development</b>
<i>Organizers:</i>	<b>UNCTAD secretariat</b>
<i>Principal themes:</i>	<b>To promote growth and sustainable development in a globalizing and liberalizing world economy</b>
<i>NGO presence:</i>	<b>Over 100 non-governmental organizations participated in the parallel NGO conference from 24 to 27 April. Most of them participated in the official conference</b>
<i>Resulting document:</i>	<b>Midrand Declaration and A Partnership for Growth and Development (A/51/308)</b>
<i>Follow-up mechanisms:</i>	<b>UNCTAD's own intergovernmental machinery, including the Trade and Development Board and a variety of commissions and expert groups, report through ECOSOC to the General Assembly on progress made in the implementation of the Conference decisions and agreements</b>
<i>Previous conferences:</i>	<b>UNCTAD I through VII, held every four years. UNCTAD VIII, which was held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in February 1992, undertook far-reaching reforms of UNCTAD's inter-governmental machinery and methods of work aimed at fostering international cooperation for development. It identified the work plans for the Trade and Development Board, which is the executive body of UNCTAD, and for the four standing committees and five Ad Hoc Working Groups the Conference established as part of the restructuring of the organization</b>



**T**HE NINTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE and Development addressed the key issues of globalization and liberalization and recognized that these twin processes have different impacts on countries. The Conference agreed on ways to bring more of the benefits of economic globalization to developing countries and to redress some of its negative effects. The Conference also reaffirmed UNCTAD's role as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. The Conference agreed on major reform of the organization. Trade and finance ministers from developing countries stressed the negative effects on their economies of the implementation of the Uruguay Round of trade-liberalization agreements, including matters relating to access to major markets and technical assistance to and preferential treatment for the poorest countries. But a broad consensus emerged from the proceedings. The developing countries acknowledged the need to engage in globalization and liberalization by adopting outward-oriented, transparent and stable national policies. The industrialized nations recognized that more attention should be paid to the views and interests of the developing nations in international economic arrangements, and that international cooperation and assistance and a stable macroeconomic environment are necessary to complement efforts by individual countries to strengthen economic growth and sustainable development.

UNCTAD IX established a new policy environment for the organization, laying the basis for a significantly modified work programme. It created a new intergovernmental structure and encouraged further efforts to reorganize its secretariat in order to better provide analysis of macroeconomic trends and policy issues that affect developing countries and trade-related technical cooperation to these countries. Reforms included decisions that streamlined the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD, tightly structuring it so as to reduce the number of meetings. The work programme now concentrates on action-oriented programmes of interest and practical value to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries. The Conference also asked the UNCTAD secretariat to integrate representatives of the civil society (NGOs, private/business and academic sectors) into its work.

The Conference decided that UNCTAD should concentrate on four areas:

- *globalization and development;*
- *investment, enterprise development and technology;*
- *international trade in goods and services, and commodity issues;*
- *services infrastructure for development and trade efficiency.*

In order to implement this programme and perform integrated policy work, three Commissions of the Trade and Development Board have been established: (1) Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities; (2) Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues; (3) Commission on Enterprise,



Business Facilitation and Development. The Trade and Development Board, which is the executive body of UNCTAD, continues to deal at its regular annual session with interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective.

The question of the continued role for UNCTAD as the result of the creation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995 was resolved by a careful division of labour between the two organizations. Recognizing UNCTAD's clear comparative advantage in tackling trade-related development issues, member States agreed that UNCTAD should continue to facilitate the integration of developing countries and countries in transition into the international trading system in a complementary manner with the WTO. In contrast to the WTO, whose prime role is to regulate international trade agreements, UNCTAD will provide policy analysis, facilitate consensus-building, promote a development perspective and provide technical assistance, in cooperation with WTO, to developing countries, including help to countries seeking compensation for losses incurred under new international trade rules.

### **Forging a new vision of development**

Development has always been and remains the vocation of UNCTAD, which was founded to promote development through trade, investment, technology and all the instruments that are essential for development. And this remains the centre of UNCTAD now and in the future. But UNCTAD will have to examine what has changed in the perception of development since the organization was established in the 1960s. It will take stock of practical experiences with development and draw lessons from the successful examples. Simultaneously, UNCTAD needs to incorporate in its vision factors which did not exist in the 1960s and anticipate new challenges that may arise in terms of development. UNCTAD's objective is to help improve the well-being of people by analysing and providing policy advice on income distribution, poverty alleviation, and how to accelerate growth while reducing inequalities. Moreover, the quality of development should be sustainable, and not at the expense of future generations.

To build on the political commitment pledged by Member States to the process initiated at the Conference and ensure its implementation, the President of UNCTAD IX was invited to consider convening a special high-level review meeting in 1998. The Conference welcomed with appreciation the offer by the Government of Thailand to host UNCTAD X in the year 2000.



## **ANNEX I**

### **INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION (ACC)**

Three task forces have been established by ACC to support country-level follow-up to UN conference agreements, especially those action plans decided at Cairo, Copenhagen, and Beijing (*See the Introduction and chapters for further details*). The task forces, their areas of concern and participants follow.

#### **Inter-Agency Task Forces**

##### **1. Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods:**

- A diagnosis of the major characteristics of the situation of employment and sustainable livelihoods, including the impact of global and regional factors;
- Identification of key elements in a future strategy for employment and sustainable livelihoods;
- The impact of globalization and technological change on employment and sustainable livelihoods;
- Clarification of the relationship between employment and sustainable livelihoods;
- Indicators for employment and sustainable livelihoods.

##### **Chair - ILO**

Participating agencies:  
FAO, UNESCO,  
WHO, World Bank,  
IMF, UPU, ITU,  
IMO, IFAD, UNIDO,  
UNCTAD, WTO,  
WFP, UNDP,  
UNFPA, UNHCR,  
DPCSD/UN,  
DESIPA/UN

##### **2. Basic Social Services for All:**

In the areas of "primary health care" and "basic education", the task force will approach its work so as to include the following dimensions:

- Selection/use of indicators;
- Financing and resource mobilization;
- Gender perspective;
- Targeting specific groups, including in post-crisis and emergency situations;
- Policy;
- Involvement of civil society;
- Hunger/nutrition;
- Environment;
- Reproductive health;
- International migration;
- Child and maternal mortality.

##### **Chair - UNFPA**

Participating agencies:  
ILO, FAO, WHO,  
UNESCO, UNIDO,  
IMF, World Bank,  
UNDP, UNICEF,  
UNEP, UNIFEM,  
UNDCP, WFP,  
UNHCR, UNRWA,  
HABITAT,  
Regional commissions,  
DPCSD/UN,  
DESIPA/UN,  
DHA/UN

##### **3. Enabling Environment for Economic and Social Development:**

- Capacity-building for governance (chair: UNDP)
- Macroeconomic and social framework (chair: World Bank)

##### **Chair - World Bank**

Participating agencies:  
ILO, FAO, UNESCO,  
WHO, IAEA, WMO,  
ICAO, UNIDO,  
IMF, UNCTAD,  
UNDP, UNFPA,  
UNICEF, UNIFEM,  
UNDCP, DPCSD/UN,  
DESIPA/UN

**ANNEX II**
**United Nations Member States**

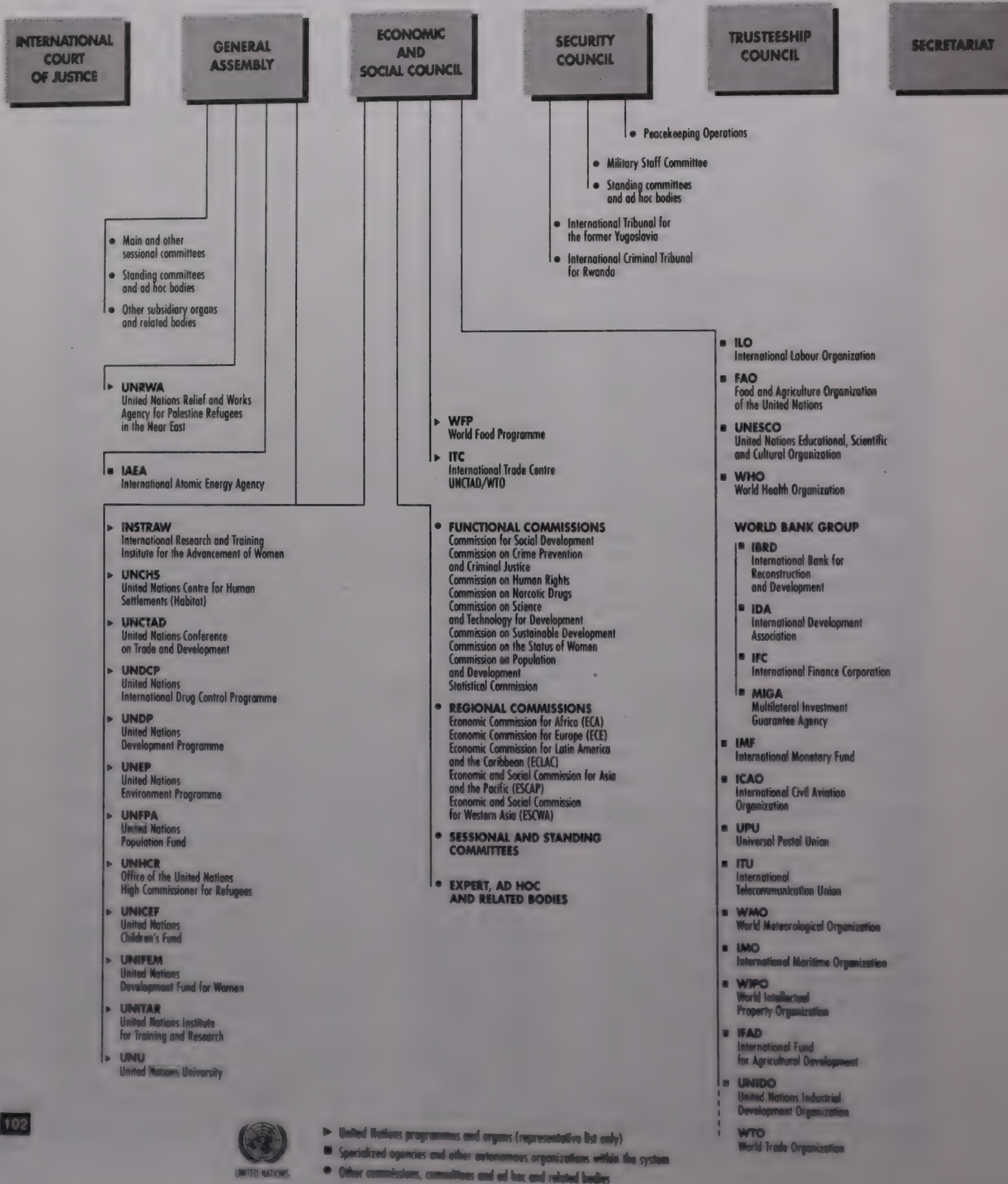
Member State	Date of Admission	Population est. (000)	Member State	Date of Admission	Population est. (000)
Afghanistan	19 November 1946	20,141	Denmark	24 October 1945	5,228
Albania	14 December 1955	3,645	Djibouti	20 September 1977	577
Algeria	8 October 1962	28,548	Dominica	18 December 1978	71
Andorra	28 July 1993	68	Dominican Republic	24 October 1945	7,915
Angola	1 December 1976	11,072	Ecuador	21 December 1945	11,460
Antigua and Barbuda	11 November 1981	66	Egypt	24 October 1945	59,226
Argentina	24 October 1945	34,768	El Salvador	24 October 1945	5,768
Armenia	2 March 1992	3,599	Equatorial Guinea	12 November 1968	400
Australia	1 November 1945	18,054	Eritrea	28 May 1993	3,531
Austria	14 December 1955	8,053	Estonia	17 September 1991	1,530
Azerbaijan	2 March 1992	7,499	Ethiopia	13 November 1945	56,677
Bahamas	18 September 1973	278	Federated States of Micronesia	17 September 1991	105
Bahrain	21 September 1971	586	Fiji	13 October 1970	784
Bangladesh	17 September 1974	120,433	Finland	14 December 1955	5,108
Barbados	9 December 1966	264	France	24 October 1945	58,143
Belarus	24 October 1945	10,141	Gabon	20 September 1960	1,320
Belgium	27 December 1945	10,113	Gambia	21 September 1965	1,118
Belize	25 September 1981	217	Georgia	31 July 1992	5,457
Benin	20 September 1960	5,561	Germany	18 September 1973	81,642
Bhutan	21 September 1971	1,638	Ghana	8 March 1957	17,453
Bolivia	14 November 1945	7,414	Greece	25 October 1945	10,458
Bosnia and Herzegovina	22 May 1992	4,484	Grenada	17 September 1974	92
Botswana	17 October 1966	1,456	Guatemala	21 November 1945	10,621
Brazil	24 October 1945	155,822	Guinea	12 December 1958	6,700
Brunei Darussalam	21 September 1984	285	Guinea-Bissau	17 September 1974	1,073
Bulgaria	14 December 1955	8,402	Guyana	20 September 1966	835
Burkina Faso	20 September 1960	10,200	Haiti	24 October 1945	7,180
Burundi	18 September 1962	5,982	Honduras	17 December 1945	5,953
Cambodia	14 December 1955	9,836	Hungary	14 December 1955	10,225
Cameroon	20 September 1960	13,277	Iceland	19 November 1946	269
Canada	9 November 1945	29,606	India	30 October 1945	935,744
Cape Verde	16 September 1975	392	Indonesia	28 September 1950	193,750
Central African Republic	20 September 1960	3,315	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	24 October 1945	67,283
Chad	20 September 1960	6,361	Iraq	21 December 1945	20,449
Chile	24 October 1945	14,210	Ireland	14 December 1955	3,582
China	24 October 1945	1,221,462	Israel	11 May 1949	5,545
Colombia	5 November 1945	35,099	Italy	14 December 1955	57,187
Comoros	12 November 1975	653	Jamaica	18 September 1962	2,530
Congo	20 September 1960	2,590	Japan	18 December 1956	125,197
Costa Rica	2 November 1945	3,333	Jordan	14 December 1955	5,439
Côte d'Ivoire	20 September 1960	14,230	Kazakhstan	2 March 1992	16,590
Croatia	22 May 1992	4,495	Kenya	16 December 1963	30,522
Cuba	24 October 1945	11,041	Kuwait	14 May 1963	1,691
Cyprus	20 September 1960	742	Kyrgyzstan	2 March 1992	4,668
Czech Republic	19 January 1993	10,331	Lao People's Democratic Republic	14 December 1955	4,882
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	17 September 1991	23,917	Latvia	17 September 1991	2,515



Member State	Date of Admission	Population est. (000)	Member State	Date of Admission	Population est. (000)
Lebanon	24 October 1945	3,009	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	16 September 1980	111
Lesotho	17 October 1966	2,050	Samoa	15 December 1976	171
Liberia	2 November 1945	2,760	San Marino	2 March 1992	25
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	14 December 1955	5,407	Sao Tome and Principe	16 September 1975	127
Liechtenstein	18 September 1990	31	Saudi Arabia	24 October 1945	17,880
Lithuania	17 September 1991	3,715	Senegal	28 September 1960	8,347
Luxembourg	24 October 1945	410	Seychelles	21 September 1976	75
Madagascar	20 September 1960	14,763	Sierra Leone	27 September 1961	4,509
Malawi	1 December 1964	9,788	Singapore	21 September 1965	2,987
Malaysia	17 September 1957	20,097	Slovak Republic	19 January 1993	5,364
Maldives	21 September 1965	254	Slovenia	22 May 1992	1,984
Mali	28 September 1960	10,795	Solomon Islands	19 September 1978	378
Malta	1 December 1964	371	Somalia	20 September 1960	9,250
Marshall Islands	17 September 1991	56	South Africa	7 November 1945	41,244
Mauritania	27 October 1961	2,284	Spain	14 December 1955	39,210
Mauritius	24 April 1968	1,122	Sri Lanka	14 December 1955	18,354
Mexico	7 November 1945	90,487	Sudan	12 November 1956	28,098
Monaco	28 May 1993	32	Suriname	4 December 1975	423
Mongolia	27 October 1961	2,410	Swaziland	24 September 1968	908
Morocco	12 November 1956	27,111	Sweden	19 November 1946	8,831
Mozambique	16 September 1975	17,423	Syrian Arab Republic	24 October 1945	14,186
Myanmar	19 April 1948	46,527	Tajikistan	2 March 1992	5,836
Namibia	23 April 1990	1,540	Thailand	16 December 1946	59,401
Nepal	14 December 1955	21,918	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	8 April 1993	2,163
Netherlands	10 December 1945	15,451	Togo	20 September 1960	4,138
New Zealand	24 October 1945	3,542	Trinidad and Tobago	18 September 1962	1,306
Nicaragua	24 October 1945	4,539	Tunisia	12 November 1956	8,896
Niger	20 September 1960	9,151	Turkey	24 October 1945	61,644
Nigeria	7 October 1960	111,721	Turkmenistan	2 March 1992	4,099
Norway	27 November 1945	4,360	Uganda	25 October 1962	19,848
Oman	7 October 1971	2,163	Ukraine	24 October 1945	51,639
Pakistan	30 September 1947	129,808	United Arab Emirates	9 December 1971	2,314
Palau	15 December 1994	17	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	24 October 1945	58,258
Panama	13 November 1945	2,631	United Republic of Tanzania	14 December 1961	30,337
Papua New Guinea	10 October 1975	4,074	United States of America	24 October 1945	263,034
Paraguay	24 October 1945	4,828	Uruguay	18 December 1945	3,186
Peru	31 October 1945	23,560	Uzbekistan	2 March 1992	22,843
Philippines	24 October 1945	70,267	Vanuatu	15 September 1981	169
Poland	24 October 1945	38,588	Venezuela	15 November 1945	21,644
Portugal	14 December 1955	10,797	Viet Nam	20 September 1977	74,545
Qatar	21 September 1971	551	Yemen	30 September 1947	14,501
Republic of Korea	17 September 1991	44,851	Yugoslavia	24 October 1945	10,544
Republic of Moldova	2 March 1992	4,432	Zaire	20 September 1960	43,901
Romania	14 December 1955	22,680	Zambia	1 December 1964	9,373
Russian Federation	24 October 1945	148,141	Zimbabwe	25 August 1980	11,526
Rwanda	18 September 1962	7,952			
Saint Kitts and Nevis	23 September 1983	42			
Saint Lucia	18 September 1979	145			

# The UNITED NATIONS system

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The complete text of the recommendations adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, 1992 — the UN Conference on Environment and Development — which together set out a comprehensive blueprint for achieving sustainable development.

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\* The letters a-o, which accompany each listing, indicate where these publications can be obtained (See "Where to order" beginning on page 110).



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**Africa Recovery.** Published by the Library and Publications Division of the United Nations Department of Public Information, with support from UNDP and UNICEF. Annual subscription: \$20. (a)iv  
Quarterly magazine covering issues of economic and social reform in Africa and international cooperation, in particular by the United Nations, to support these programmes.

**An Agenda for Democratization.** By Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former Secretary-General of the United Nations. UN/DPI. 1996. New York. 58 pages. DPI/1867. Sales No. E.97.1.3 ISBN: 92-1-100630-9. \$7.50 E. (a)ii

Analyzes the vital relationship between peace, development and democracy, and in particular the role the United Nations can play in helping States and the international community deal with the questions of prioritization and timing of actions towards these goals.

**An Agenda for Development.** By Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former Secretary-General of the United Nations. UN/DPI. 1995. New York. 132 pages. DPI/1622/DEV. Sales No. E.95.1.16. ISBN: 92-1-100556-6. \$7.50. A/C/E/F/R/S. (a)ii

Outlines principles to guide global development. Shows how the development process is linked to peace, economy, environment, society and democracy.

**An Agenda for Peace, Second Edition.** By Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former Secretary-General of the United Nations. UN/DPI. 1995. New York. 155 pages. DPI/1623/PKO. Sales No. E.95.1.15. ISBN: 92-1-100555-8. \$7.50. A/C/E/F/R/S. (a)ii

Analyses and recommends ways of strengthening the capacity of the UN for preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building.

**Basic Facts About the United Nations, 1995 edition.** UN/DPI. New York. 341 pages. DPI/1580. \$7.50. E/F/S. (a)ii

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**Children and Development in the 1990s: A UNICEF Sourcebook on the Occasion of the World Summit for Children.** UNICEF. 1990. Sales No. E.90.XX.USA.8. \$35.00. E. (d)

Organized around a set of ambitious goals for children in the 1990s. Discusses economic conditions necessary to make the goals feasible.

**The Crisis of Social Development in the 1990s: Preparing for the World Social Summit.**

UNRISD. 1994. Geneva. 57 pages. E. (f)

Includes the following sections: Rethinking social development in the 1990s; Economic restructuring and new social policies; Ethnic diversity and public policies; The challenge of rebuilding war-torn societies.

**The Cultural Dimension of Development: Towards a Practical Approach.** UNESCO. 1994. Paris. 200 pages. ISBN: 92-3-103043-4. \$20. E/F/S. (e)

Describes the means for integrating cultural factors into development.

**Demographic Yearbook 1994, Vol. 46.** UN/Population Division. New York. 1044 pages.

Sales No. B.96.XIII.1. ISBN: 92-1-051085-2. \$124 E/F. (a)ii

A definitive source of demographic and population statistics. About 250 countries or regions are represented. The first groups of tables comprise a world summary of basic demographic statistics. This summary is followed by statistics on the size, distribution and trends in population, fertility, foetal mortality, infant and maternal mortality and general mortality.

**Environment, Employment and Development.** (ed. A. S. Bhalla). ILO. 1992. Geneva.

ISBN: 92-2-108250-4. SwF 25.00. E. (g)

Examines employment implications of sustainable development, reviews approaches to minimizing environmental degradation and looks at environmentally sound approaches to employment promotion.

**The 50th Anniversary Annual Report on the Work of the Organization, 1996.** UN/DPI. 1996.

New York. 376 pages. DPI/1821. Sales No. E.96.I.19. ISBN: 92-1-100615-5. \$14.95. A/C/E/F/R/S. (a)ii

**Global Environment Outlook.** UNEP. 1997. New York and Oxford, UK. 264 pages.

ISBN: 0-19-521349-1. \$24.95. E. Available through Oxford University Press or UNEP's Home page address on the Internet: <http://www.unep.org>.

State of the world environment from a regional perspective.

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Contains entries on each of the principal organizations and bodies in the UN system, briefly describing what they do, the kind of information available and whom to contact for further questions. A comprehensive index provides the names of the United Nations offices dealing with the major areas of international and regional concern.

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Provides a global overview of changes in the world health situation as determined through analysis of data submitted by 151 countries for 1985-1990.

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Examines the limitations of social data, especially in developing countries, and identifies a number of strategies for improving data quality in the short and medium term.
- National Perspectives on Population and Development: Synthesis of 168 national reports prepared for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.** UNFPA/Secretariat of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). 1995. New York. 112 pages. ISBN: 0-89714-125-3. E. (n)  
This report is a synthesis of 168 national reports prepared for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.
- New Imperatives of Human Security** (by Mahbub ul Haq). A policy paper commissioned by UNDP for the World Summit for Social Development. UNDP. 1994. New York. E. (b)  
The author suggests a new concept of security to move from arms and territorial security to the security of people and individuals through development and the evolution of a global civil society.
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Issues discussed in this report concern the balance between economic efficiency and social justice; the interaction between the social functions of the State; market responses to social demand and the imperatives of sustainable development; the equalization of opportunity for all members of society; the more effective delivery of social services for the more disadvantaged sectors of society; and the mobilization of resources for social development at the local, national, regional and international levels. It analyzes policy choices in several countries.
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- The Situation of Elderly Women: Available Statistics and Indicators.** INSTRAW. 1994. Santo Domingo. E/S. (l)  
Overview of the situation of elderly women in different regions of the world using comparative statistics and indicators. Identifies existing data gaps.



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*The State of Food and Agriculture* is FAO's annual report on current developments affecting world agriculture. It presents facts and figures on the global agricultural situation and a review of the economic environment surrounding agriculture. The 1995 edition discusses the trade performance of a group of low-income food-deficit countries with very low capacity to finance imports and the impact of the liberalization of agricultural policies on the consumer. Its regional review highlights India, Jordan, Central America and South Africa. It also presents an overview of the status of the reform process in the former centrally planned economies of Central and Eastern Europe. A set of time-series data is presented on diskette in English, French and Spanish: Time Series for SOFA'95 includes agricultural, fisheries and forestry data for about 150 countries, country groups and regions. The FAOSTAT TS software offers easy display and analysis.

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Annual report on the major issues and activities related to world population. The 1996 report deals with urbanization.

**The State of World Rural Poverty: An Inquiry into Its Causes and Consequences,** published for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) by New York University Press. 1993. 513 pages. ISBN: 08-147375-44. \$25. Available through New York University Press (Tel.: 1-800-996-6987 or 212-998-2575). E.

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Presents views on the future of the world of work and employment. Examines the social clause in international trade agreements, the reintegration of those excluded from economic activity, social dialogue and international labour standards.
- Women in a Changing Global Economy: 1994 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development.** United Nations. 1994. New York. Sales No. E.95.IV.1. ISBN: 92-1-130163-7. \$9.95. E/F/S. (a)ii  
Provides a comprehensive analysis of policy issues and concepts related to the advancement of women, highlighting gender approach to poverty and employment.
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This updated edition of *Women: Challenges to the Year 2000* reviews the dramatic opportunities becoming available to women, especially in the areas of health and work.
- World Development Report 1996: From plan to market.** World Bank. 1996. Washington, DC. 241 pages. Paperback: ISBN: 0-19-521107-3. \$19.95. E/F/S. (k)  
Examines development policies worldwide. Topics of previous world development reports: *Workers in an integrating world* (1995); *Infrastructure for development* (1994); *Investing in health* (1993); *Development and the environment* (1992); *The challenge of development* (1991); *Poverty* (1990).
- World Economic and Social Survey 1996: Trends and Policies in the World Economy.** United Nations. 1996. New York. 368 pages. Sales No. E.96.II.C.1. ISBN: 92-1-109131-4. \$55.00. E/F/S. (a)ii  
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- Conference on Natural Disasters
- Conference on Trade and Development

The efforts now under way at the international and national levels to realize the goals they have set for the international community, particularly as it involves the United Nations, are clearly and concisely explained. Additional annexes include a comprehensive, annotated bibliography of relevant publications and conference documents.

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